

JPRS-UMA-84-028

3 April 1984

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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3 April 1984

USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

U.S. ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 23, Dec 83 pp 76-80

[Article by A. Kartsev: "Terrorism: A Weapon of Imperialism and the Reaction']

[Excerpts] During the late 1970's and early 1980's the most reactionary circles of imperialism, and American imperialism above all, unfolded a hullabaloo about the so-called "international terrorism" in justifying their rejection of the detente policy. This unseemly political and propaganda campaign immediately was given an antisoviet direction, and highly placed representatives of the Washington administration became its initiators.

By placing the equal sign between terrorism and the national liberation movement, the international reaction and its enormous propaganda apparatus pursued two far-reaching goals. First of all, the goal was to discredit the genuine nature of the national liberation movements and isolate their participants from the trusty ally--the fraternal countries of socialism. Secondly, the goal was to justify actions by aggressive imperialist circles which consider political terrorism to be one of their reliable and tested weapons, shamelessly resorting to it in areas which they have arbitrarily declared zones of their own "vital interests."

Each day there is more and more proof of the fact that imperialist states, and the United States above all, are relying specifically on terror and political terrorism in their foreign policy. The international reaction is resorting to terror as it experiences fear of the irreversible revolutionary changes occurring in the world. F. Engels wrote about this at one time: "Terror is for the most part useless cruelties committed by people who themselves experience fear for the sake of their own reassurance." In recent years terrorism has become one of the most repulsive, inhumane tools of foreign policy activity by certain imperialist states. Imperialism, and primarily American imperialism, is resorting more and more often to unique "pressing" or "power play" tactics not only against the socialist countries, but also against independent "third world" states and even against its allies.

"The American military presence thousands of kilometers from U.S. territory is being expanded under all kinds of far-fetched pretexts," notes the Statement by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, Chairman of the USSR Supreme

Soviet Presidium Yu. V. Andropov. "Springboards are being set up for direct intervention in the affairs of other states with the help of armed force and for employing American weapons against any country which rejects Washington's diktat. As a result there has been an increase in tension in all parts of the world--in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Near East and Central America."

The following are important elements of American imperialism's adventurist course: organization of a ramified apparatus for conducting sabotage-terrorist activity on the territories of third world countries in peacetime (i.e., when the United States is not officially in a state of war with a given state); achievement of maximum possible control over the activity of already existing terrorist groups and organizations in the most diverse countries regardless of their political coloration, and use of political terrorists for its own purposes; and creation of all kinds of ideological-political and ideological doctrines and concepts intended to justify U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of other states.

In exposing the imperialists' reliance on terror and brute force, the 26th party congress noted: "In demonstrating total disregard for the rights and aspirations of nations, they are trying to depict the liberation movement of popular masses as a display of 'terrorism.' They truly have set the goal to achieve the unachievable--to place a barrier in the path of progressive changes in the world and return to themselves the role of rulers of nations' destinies." This trend intensified in particular in U.S. foreign policy under President Reagan.

The U.S. Army and Central Intelligence Agency lately have been literally larded with various subunits for conducting "special" or, as they also are called, "unconventional" combat actions. In this instance it is clearly a question of preparing personnel for conducting terrorist and sabotage acts on the territories of countries which Washington has declared "vital" regions for the United States.

Now being prepared in the United States for accomplishing "unconventional" combat actions are above all special Army subunits (the "Green Berets" of sad repute back during Vietnam), Air Force "commando" units, subunits of "red helmets" and subunits of so-called "Black Berets." With abundant experience as members of punitive expeditions gained during brutal reprisals against South Vietnamese patriots, the "Green Berets" were formed in 1952 with the purpose, as stated in a special circular about the missions of this subunit, of opposing "the interests of the Soviet Union and its allies" throughout the world. It is noteworthy that the "Green Berets" function in close contact with the CIA. Events now occurring in Central America, where the "Green Berets" and CIA agents are trying jointly to suppress the Nicaraguan revolution and put down the revolutionary struggle of the Salvadoran nation, serve as a graphic example. Airborne personnel from U.S. Army special subunits took part in the American aggression against sovereign Grenada unleashed by Washington in late October 1983.

Developing countries know from their own experience that Grenada is merely a link in a long chain of Washington's encroachments on the independence and

sovereignty of young states of Asia, Africa and Latin America. They see with their own eyes that the present proprietor of the White House, who in words has passed himself off as a fighter against imaginary "international terrorism," in fact has elevated international terrorism to the rank of state politics. The developing countries are being convinced in practice that by building up the interventionist "rapid deployment force" in various parts of the world and declaring secret operations against any state as "competent," Reagan is assuming for himself the role of world gendarme.

The "Black Berets," one of the most secret American Army subunits, are the elite, as it were, of special subunits in the U.S. Armed Forces. Journalists managed to learn that there is a total of only one or two "Black Beret" battalions in the United States. They are intended for performing the most repulsive, dirty deeds in the rear of a "potential enemy"--murders and kidnappings of political figures, explosions in public places and so on.

The cutthroats from the American Armed Forces special subunits for now only are becoming practiced in sabotage and terrorist activity, but the "boys from Langley" (that is what CIA workers, whose headquarters is located in the town of Langley near Washington, are called in the United States) long ago considered sabotage and terrorism the most commonplace work they have. When U.S. President Harry Truman signed the decree forming the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947 it was assumed that the new organization would be engaged exclusively in the collection and processing of intelligence needed by the U.S. government for "making the most important political decisions." But another trend began to gain the upper hand among the American espionage department's leadership in the very first months of its activities. The CIA began to "make history" in the interests of American imperialism: to overthrow and bring to power governments, to arrange putsches and military coups, and to intervene in the affairs of independent states. It became clear immediately that one could not get by here without "special actions," and since "special actions" were needed, people also were needed who were ready to carry them out--professional terrorists, saboteurs and provocateurs trained in the CIA.

In an attempt to preserve and strengthen its position in the world arena and so as not to be compromised once and for all in the people's eyes, American imperialism often brings in formally independent terrorist groups and organizations from other countries for a job, and not its own terrorists and saboteurs trained in the CIA. It is true that they often are trained and armed by the same CIA, but they try not to mention this. People at Langley make a helpless gesture with feigned bewilderment when the talk turns to the activity of the "Omega-7" and "Alpha-66" anti-Cuban terrorist groups, about the arms supplied to Somoza bands operating against Nicaragua from neighboring Honduras, about coordination of the activities of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, or coordination of the activity of terrorists from the "Unita" anti-Angolan organization. But the facts irrefutably prove that American special services are behind the actions of many major terrorist organizations.

Just take the undeclared U.S. war against Nicaragua. Approximately 10,000 of Somoza's cutthroats are operating against the young republic from the territory of Honduras and Costa Rica. Infiltrating across the border in small groups in inaccessible places, they are trying at any cost to seize a springboard on Nicaraguan territory for setting up a puppet "government" there. The bandits terrorize the peaceful populace, mine roads, blow up or burn national economic installations, and attack transport and people from ambush. Ten thousand professional cutthroats represent no small number. Terrorists have to be fed, dressed, armed and trained. Finally, they have to be paid a salary. With whose funds is all this being done? What state's stamp is on the counterrevolutionaries' weapons?

The bandits would not be able to hold out a week without U.S. economic assistance. Dozens of photographs already have made the rounds of the press: American instructors in terrorist camps on Honduran territory are teaching them to handle the latest weapons. In the fall of 1983 aircraft which appeared with the Somoza personnel also joined in the war against sovereign Nicaragua. These were aircraft of American manufacture flown most often by former military pilots hired in the United States. Fuel storage areas, power stations and depots are chosen as targets. American bombs and rockets burst in the residential blocks of Managua and Corinto.

According to Italian press data it was back in the mid-1960's that the American special services began to set up contacts with the neofascist underground in Italy and through it with the highest officers of the Italian Army who adhered to extreme right political convictions. A secret terrorist organization known as "Wind Rose," which promised support to neofascists during an overthrow, was set up from among the ranks of the Italian Army leadership.

The growth of the working and general democratic movement in Italy and powerful demonstrations against the violence of political terror and neofascism showed the CIA that a rightist putsch wouldn't work in the country and so as early as the mid-1970's the CIA shifted its primary attention to the ultraleft extremists, who were eking out a miserable existence in the background of Italian political life. Then the "red brigades" began to come into the arena of political terrorism in the Apennines. The CIA "got on the right side" of this leftist group (which formed once and for all in the early 1970's in large industrial cities of northern Italy) with the help of the Israeli special services firmly entrenched on the Apennine Peninsula.

The bloody hand of the American espionage department also is seen in one of the most monstrous acts of political terrorism in Italy--the abduction and

murder of former Italian prime minister and chairman of the Christian Democratic Party national council Aldo Moro. It is noteworthy that not long before the kidnapping R. Gardner, then U.S. Ambassador to Italy, called Moro "the most dangerous and suspicious personality in the Italian political arena." U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger insistently advised Moro to change his policy with respect to the Italian Communist Party. Aldo Moro did not heed the "advice" and then the prominent political figure was abducted and killed.

When the "red brigades" finally compromised themselves two years ago and began to lose popularity among the leftist and declassed portion of the youth, the CIA again turned its attention to the neofascists. One of the terrorist groups of the black-shirts--the "armed revolutionary cells" (neofascists today speculate to the utmost on the word "revolution," taking it to mean their own putsch)--was able to avoid being crushed by the police. It is this group, which was responsible for blowing up a railroad station in Bologna in August 1980, which today is fulfilling assignments of its bosses from the American special services more and more actively. Terrorists from the "cells" are not just operating in Italy; they are being used by the CIA in the Near East, South America and even in Afghanistan.

How is this done? Neofascist thugs who come under police suspicion in the Apennines are moved by the CIA over a "rat trail" to the Near East, where Israeli protege Major Haddad setup several training camps for European neofascists. One of the Italian black-shirts, Walter Sordi, recently gave information to the police. Here is what he said. In 1980 he was transferred to Beirut together with three neofascists. There the Phalangists taught them to use the rocket launcher, mortars and explosives. An "unknown" organization paid them a "stipend" of 300,000 lire per month (a young worker with average qualifications in Italy receives no more than 100,000 lire) and sent them to take part in raids on OOP [Palestine Liberation Organization: PLO] camps and bases. There were several dozen more terrorists from other European countries at the training camp. Sordi stated that an "unknown" organization sent the other terrorists to the Pakistani city of Peshawar, where for several months they took part in marauding on the territory of democratic Afghanistan together with counterrevolutionary bands.

The Near East, Afghanistan, Central and South America, Kampuchea, Angola... This is an incomplete list of those parts of the globe where the United States is defending its "vital interests" with the weapons of international political terrorism. The intelligence-subversive espionage services of Washington are acting hand in hand with a gigantic propaganda machine, justifying any of Langley's adventures in the struggle against the national liberation movements, progressive forces and the independent politics of sovereign states.

There is a term--"president's hobbyhorse"--in the lexicon of American politologists. It is interpreted as the basic thought or idea with which the new proprietor comes to the White House and occupies the president's chair there. President Carter's "hobbyhorse" was a "struggle for human rights," which of course, following the antisoviet logic of the American ruling hierarchy, were violated in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

And with what did Ronald Reagan arrive in the White House? Within the framework of the overall "crusade" against communism, the new U.S. president also took up arms against "international terrorism." In listening to the president's speeches many Americans might think that since the present administration had begun to approach this problem so seriously, there would be an end to the formation and previously unprecedented increase in size of all kinds of military subunits intended for "special" operations; territory of the state of Florida would have to be abandoned once and for all by thousands of anti-Cuban emigres from the "Alpha-66" and "Omega-7" subversive groups; and the most careful attention of authorities and the public would be directed at the work of the "gallant lads from Langley," i.e., the CIA.

It stands to reason that these hopes were not to be borne out. It turned out that Reagan believed the Soviet Union to be the protector of "international terrorism," and as declared recently by Frank Perez, deputy director of the office for the fight against terrorism, the United States is "the primary target of international terrorism."

The entire U.S. propaganda machine immediately joined in the campaign of slander against the USSR, and what weren't the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries accused of! Soviet soldiers "were seen" in El Salvador and Nicaragua, Aldo Moro had been kidnapped at the Kremlin's bidding, "red brigades" were being run with CSSR money--it cannot all be enumerated. A graphic example of one such slanderous act is the case instituted in Italy against Bulgarian citizen Antonov accusing him of preparing an assassination attempt against Roman Pope John Paul II. But it is well known that the assassination attempt was committed by Turkish neofascist Ali Agca, a terrorist connected with western (including American) special services. Here is what it all came down to: One of the thousands of terrorists connected with the western espionage-sabotage department took aim at the pope and the Soviet Union and Bulgaria are declared guilty!

This dirty antisoviet bluff burst like a soapbubble, but the hired scribblers continue to besmirch the USSR's peaceloving policy over the air and in the press day and night, often directly with CIA money, blasphemously accusing our country and our friends of inspiring international terrorism. It is an old technique of imperialist circles: Place the fault at someone else's door under cover of a propaganda hullabaloo!

There is no shortage in capitalist countries of various pseudoscientific studies depicting horrifying pictures of "guerrilla terrorism unfolded around the world by Marxist-Leninists." For example, David Jordan, a professor at the University of Virginia in the United States, asserts categorically in one of his latest books that "terrorists supported and trained by the communists . . . aim at establishing Marxist-Leninist states throughout the world." And Brian Flowers, rector of the Imperial College in London, speculating on the West Europeans' fear of atomic warfare, frightens them with cock-and-bull stories about "red terrorists'" possible use of homemade nuclear devices.

In order to refute the mountains of these absurd fabrications and open lies, suffice it to recall that communists' attitude toward terrorism always has been negative. Back in the 19th century when German anarchists advanced the idea of "propaganda by action" and sounded a call for terror, K. Marx subjected these views to stern criticism. F. Engels in turn wrote: "Communists know very well that all plots not only are useless, but even harmful."

Engaging in polemics with Russian socialist revolutionaries in the early 20th century, V. I. Lenin remarked that terrorism and the "harmful illusions" it generates can lead only to rapid disappointment and a weakening of the work to prepare for an onslaught of the masses against the autocracy." The draft resolution for the 2d RSDRP [Russian Social Democratic Labor Party] Congress, also written by Lenin, stated directly: "The Congress resolutely rejects terror, i.e., the system of isolated political murders, as a method of political struggle..."

The work of the CPSU and Soviet state throughout all our country's history has had nothing in common with the practice of terrorism. The USSR has consistently acted and is acting against terrorist acts, which inevitably entail the deaths of many people, violate the diplomatic activity of states, and block normal relations between various countries. The Soviet Union bears no responsibility at all for the appearance of centers of tension in the world or for the work of political terrorists. The strategy and tactics of those who trample on the rights of sovereign nations, train detachments of professional murderers and terrorists, conduct a line toward intensifying the arms race, and whip up an atmosphere of war hysteria, enmity and mistrust among various nations comprise the nutritive medium for violence and political gangsterism in the international arena.

Political terrorism occupies an ever-increasing place in the arsenal of misanthropic means of American foreign policy, accompanied by the hullabaloo about the USSR's participation in the work of "extremists." But the real goal of Washington, dressed in the toga of a fighter against "international terrorism," is becoming clearer and clearer every day to millions of people on the planet. "Under cover of anticommunism," Comrade Yu. V. Andropov emphasized in his Statement, "the pretenders to the role of rulers of world destinies are trying to plant customs suitable to themselves everywhere they receive no rebuff."

Resorting to the most unpardonable, impudent and inhumane methods of intervention in the affairs of sovereign states and nations, U.S. imperialism is compromising itself more and more in the nations' eyes as a bulwark of the notorious "free world"--a world where a human life is not worth a cent and where political terror, international gangsterism and piracy are openly inscribed on the standards of the latter-day "crusaders."

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CSO: 1801/247

ARMED FORCES

YU. V. SHATALIN SPEAKS ON OCCASION OF ARMED FORCES ANNIVERSARY

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 4

[Article: "Standing Guard over Our Peaceful Labors"]

[Text] On February 22 the Yerevan city committee of the Communist Party of Armenia and the Yerevan city soviet of people's deputies met in ceremonial session in the G. Sundukyan Theater to mark the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet Armed Forces.

In attendance were party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol officials, representatives of public organizations, personnel of the Soviet Army and party, war and labor veterans.

The presidium comprised Comrades K. S. Demirchyan, F. T. Sarkisyan, G. N. Andreyev, G. M. Voskanyan, K. A. Gambaryan, K. L. Dallakyan, L. N. Nersesyan, Yu. V. Shatalin, M. K. Arutyunyan, G. A. Martirosyan, M. O. Muradyan, L. G. Saakyan, A. O. Topuzyan, M. A. Yuzbashyan, deputy chairmen of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, senior ministerial and departmental officials, head of department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenian and officers of the Soviet Army.

The ceremonial session opened with introductory remarks by M. O. Muradyan, chairman of the executive committee of the Yerevan city soviet of people's deputies.

Attendees then sang the national anthems of the USSR and the Armenian SSR.

The Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee was enthusiastically elected as the honorary presidium for the meeting.

Participants in this ceremonial session then honored the memory of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov with a minute of silence.

Yu. V. Shatalin, member of the bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia, delivered the report.

We are marking the 66th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Armed Forces, he declared, at a time when the party and people are engaged in a systematic effort to implement the decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the December (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and to fulfill and overfulfill planned targets for the fourth year of the five-year plan.

Our party, and with it the entire Soviet people, have given their wholehearted approval to the action taken by the extraordinary plenum of the party central committee on February 13, 1984 in unanimously electing Comrade K. U. Chernenko, an outstanding Communist Party and Soviet Government figure, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet people and our friends abroad have regarded the decisions of the plenum as evidence of the continuity of policy of the party of Lenin.

We are approaching an important event in the life of the Soviet state—the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. All the preparations now under way for these elections, the unanimous support shown candidates of the communist-nonparty bloc and the meetings candidates for deputy are holding with the electorate are demonstrating the unity of our party and people and their unshakable resolve to continue our Leninist policy of peace and socialism.

The members of our Armed Forces live as one with the Soviet people in both thought and aspiration. Closing their ranks around the Communist Party and unanimously supporting its domestic and foreign policies, they see their duty to lie in standing as a powerful defender of socialism and peace and, through selfless devotion to their own personal military obligations, in strengthening the defensive capability of the motherland.

Formed in the terrible days of February 1918, the Red Army and Navy survived the fire of three years' fighting to destroy the combined forces of international imperialism and internal counterrevolution in defense of the achievements of the Great October.

Although History did not allow us much time to complete all the tasks involved in strengthening our armed forces, what we were able to accomplish over the course of the prewar five-year plans helped us lay the foundations of the victory our people achieved in the Great Patriotic War. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, the Soviet people rose up in a holy war to defend the achievements of October. In accordance with Lenin's ideas concerning the defense of the socialist fatherland, the country was transformed into one big military camp. After securing the freedom and independence of their own socialist fatherland, the Soviet Armed Forces then with honor and dignity embarked on a great mission of liberation as well. They saved the peoples of many of the countries of Europe and Asia from the yoke of fascism and militarism.

The outcome of the war dramatically confirmed the strength and invincibility of the Soviet Armed Forces, an organization based upon the sociopolitical and organizational principles of Lenin. In this extraordinarily fierce and bloody battle they waged against the fascist aggressors, Soviet fighting men, indoctrinated by the Communist Party in the spirit of the ideas of Leninism, fought in defense of the socialist fatherland, a defense in which they willingly sacrificed themselves in unparalleled examples of mass-scale heroism. More than 7 million fighters were decorated with orders and medals for heroism in battle. Over 11,500 soldiers were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union. All nations and peoples of our country were represented among them.

The sons and daughters of Armenia stood among those valiant fighters on the front lines of the Great Patriotic War; over 70 of them were decorated with government awards; 103 were designated Heroes of the Soviet Union, while the pilot Nel'son Stepan'yan was awarded this high title on two occasions.

The victory the Soviet people and their Armed Forces achieved in the Great Patriotic War is of enormous importance in the history of the world. It led, for one thing, to a major shift in the correlation of class forces in the international arena and has had a great revolutionary impact upon the entire course of world history since the end of the war.

The development in our country of a mature socialist society has laid a solid foundation for continued efforts to strengthen the country's defense capability and increase the fighting potential of the Soviet Armed Forces. Like a mirror, the army we see today reflects the dynamic development of our economy, the flowering of our science and culture, the strengthened friendship between the various peoples that comprise the USSR, a greater social homogeneity within the country and the continuous improvement we are achieving in our socialist social relations.

In its leading role in the effort to build communism, the party is now giving continuously increasing attention to the task of increasing the country's defense capability. This is a necessity arising from the fact that imperialism can now, just as before the Second World War, be seen as pursuing a particularly blatantly adventuristic policy, as standing prepared to risk the vital interests of all mankind in the name of its own narrow, mercenary interests.

The Soviet Union cannot simply ignore the military preparations now being undertaken by the aggressive forces of imperialism. It is high time that all those to whom this applies should know that we will be able to keep our own country secure and insure the security of our friends and allies under any conditions. The Soviet Union will be able to give and is now giving the proper response to any attempt to disturb the existing strategic military balance.

The members of the Armed Forces, which includes the troops of our Red Banner Transcaucasian Military District, are fulfilling their constitutional obligation to defend the peaceful, productive labors of the Soviet people and are prepared at any time to carry out the orders of the motherland and deal a crushing rebuff to imperialist aggressors if they dare to encroach upon her freedom and independence and the achievements of the Great October. Our fighting men are standing ever more vigilant, ever more combat-ready, insuring a reliable defense and maintaining the security of the southern borders of the fatherland.

Engaged in socialist competition this training year under the slogan "Be vigilant and always prepared to stand in defense of the achievements of socialism," our fighting men are reaching new heights in their efforts to improve their mastery of combat skills.

On this memorable occasion we would like once again to express our heartfelt gratitude to senior officials of the party, soviet, industrial, trade union and Komsomol organizations and organs and personnel of enterprises and institutions of the Armenian SSR and the city of Yerevan for their effective participation in our

efforts and for the concern they have shown and the help they have given our military organizations in accomplishing the vital tasks with which they have been charged. We are sincerely pleased with the republic's success, this republic in which we are serving, in accomplishing the tasks with which it was charged in the effort to build communism, and we warmly and sincerely congratulate the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR and the communists and all working people of the republic upon their victory in 1983 all-Union socialist competition for the Red Challenge Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee!

We want to express our special esteem and gratitude on this memorable occasion to our dear guests—veterans of our party and Armed Forces. Your rich fund of practical experience both on the battlefield and in everyday living, your deep party conviction, your knowledge, inexhaustible energy and high moral qualities and your involvement in military-patriotic education programs for our young people have contributed, are contributing now and, we are sure, will continue to contribute to the political, moral and military development of both the personnel of our units and subunits and our youngsters of both predraft and draft age.

And today we turn as well to you, our dear military wives. Your love and loyalty, your ability to bear up steadfastly under the day-to-day difficulties uniquely associated with your husbands' military careers, your ability to create a comfortable, congenial home life and an uplifting moral atmosphere within your families and, finally, your concern for the upbringing of your children, a responsibility, which, by and large, will rest upon your shoulders—all this creates a reliable rear for our officers and warrant officers and constitutes an important precondition for their success in discharging their military obligations; it is, accordingly, your own most worthy contribution to the effort to heighten vigilance and increase combat readiness.

Allow me to express my belief, comrade Yu. V. Shatalin declared in conclusion, that in readying themselves to render a worthy salute to the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascist Germany, our fighting men will always be equal the tasks with which they are charged by the Communist Party, the Soviet Government and the Ministry of Defense, that they will continue their vigilant watch guaranteeing the security of the southern border of our fatherland and, finally, that they will in so doing continue their worthy contributions to cause of defending the achievements of socialism.

Participants in this ceremonial gathering were then treated to a big concert.

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CSO: 1801/234

ARMED FORCES

OUTSTANDING CHIEF OF BILLETING UNIT PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Engr-Col A. Kirilin of the Central Asian Military District in the column "Outstanding Military Personnel": "Chief of the KECh[billeting and maintenance unit]"

[Text] A few months after his appointment as chief of the rayon KECh, Engr-Maj V. Zaychenko was paid a visit by a commission from the district political administration. It seems that a complaint had been lodged with the political administration in which Zaychenko was charged with "having created an intolerable situation for reputable workers, and driving out experienced personnel."

The commission gave long and careful consideration to the controversy. It gradually came to light that the letter had been written by those who were unhappy with the new chief's relentless struggle with the enemies of labor discipline. Apparently, not everyone was thrilled with the fact that Zaychenko had tightened monitoring controls on the quantity and quality of work put forth by each worker. And now the shirkers had taken it upon themselves to aggravate the objectionable chief. The commission, naturally, did not act on the charges brought by these "truth-seekers."

Every honorable and conscientious worker, without exception, supported the new KECh chief. He had the support of the party organization, which included in its membership a good many veterans of KECh operations. Mikhail Ivanovich Fateyev, for example, had worked in the KECh for a good 30 years. It was he, to whom Vladimir Andreyevich had initially confided his ideas for developing highly diversified work crews. The fact of the matter was that maintenance workers were called upon to work in the mountains and at remote sites. The KECh chief reasoned that, if people possessing several combined skills were assigned to such areas, the overall volume of work performed could be increased by a factor of 30 percent.

Heading up the first such work crew was Nikolay Yegorovich Bulygin--a man described as a master of all trades. And a new benefit had to be considered: the substantial economic effect now provided.

In his address to the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, comrade Yu. V. Andropov stressed the need for developing an economic consciousness in every Soviet citizen. The ability to foresee the kind of results which will

obtain from different types of innovations, the ability to discern the new within the routine, and the ability to develop an innovative approach to traditional forms of work--these are the qualities that Engr-Maj Zaychenko regards as important in his work.

As a practical matter, he is convinced of the major effect that living conditions have on the attitude of personnel, their work productivity, the atmosphere in the collective, and on the retention of skilled professionals. This is why he is engaged in ceaseless efforts to construct a new residence for KECh workers. Of course, he could not, by his own efforts, manage such a structure, but with the help of a nearby maintenance services enterprise... This idea was approved by the district KEU[billeting and maintenance administration]. And in April, 1983, the families of 10 of the most outstanding workers moved into their comfortable new quarters. In July, orders were reserved for an additional 15 families. A food store with a cafeteria has also been built for the KECh workers, and day rooms and recreation centers have been set up.

Of course, problems are bound to arise. Any defect in the work done by the maintenance people is found first by the apartment residents. In such cases, other supervisors rush to cheerfully assure those concerned that all defects will be eliminated. It must be noted that not all of them are concerned with actually fulfilling their promises.

Zaychenko adheres to a different style of operation. There was the time, for instance, when residents complained of a cutoff in supplies of hot water. The KECh chief called them together and forthrightly laid out the situation for them: the boiler was getting old, and they would have to forebear for awhile. And, as a matter of fact, the boiler was renovated within the time period he had set down for them.

Engr-Maj V. Zaychenko is not complacent about the fact that the rayon KECh which he heads has held the distinguished Red Banner of the district military council for three years in a row. He continues his tireless search for new means for improving work efficiency. His efforts remain highly responsible and conscientious. They are, in fact, a primary determinant of the attitude of his personnel, as well as their living and health conditions.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Cadet Teaches Pioneer Group

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Cadet S. Chumak: "I Go to My Class"]

[Text] A year ago the secretary of the battalion Komsomol organization approached me and offered me the position of Pioneer leader in one of the classes at a local school. I cannot say that I was pleased with the offer. At first I even tried to decline. I was even more disturbed when they sent me to the second grade at the school. "What will I have to talk about with the little kids?" I thought. "Cadet Andrey Artyukhov was luckier: He got the eighth grade."

My worst fears began to come true during the very first talk. It did not turn out the way I wanted it to. Teacher Larisa Vasil'yevna Avtukh comforted me the best she could. "Take something interesting with you to the next class," she advised me. I did... a gas mask. The questions never stopped coming. At the end of the meeting I heard nothing but: "When are you going to come again, Mister cadet"?

The next time I took the kids to a monument to the Balashikha residents who died fighting for the homeland. I prepared for the discussion in advance. I could see that what I was saying excited the kids. A visit to the Central Museum of the Armed Forces of the USSR gave me greater prestige in the eyes of the children.

I have to admit that now I can hardly wait to see them again. I have found that it is very interesting to be in a group of children, to answer their endless questions, to contemplate lofty things with them.

The children are growing up. There will come a time when I will invite them to open house at my school. That will be a festive day for them.

My duties have increased. I have less free time. I would certainly not call my work with the students a burden, however. That word does not fit. I always return from the school refreshed and in good spirits.

Follow-Up on Report of Officer Misconduct

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jan 84 p 2

[Article: "Connivance"]

[Text] A report from Colonel V. Nagornyy was published under the above title on 27 November 1983. It criticized the improper practice of sending equipment and personnel to civilian enterprises to earn money for the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel N. Kasyanenko.

Major General A. Sitnikov, first deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the Moscow Air Defense District, reported to the editors that the facts were confirmed. The newspaper article was discussed at a meeting of commanders and political workers of units and installations, at party meetings in the district political section and its airfield engineer service, at a seminar of party committee secretaries and buros of units under the district. Steps have been outlined for improving the indoctrination of personnel in positions of leadership.

A party meeting was held in the party organization of the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel N. Kasyanenko, at which a principled, party assessment was made of the unauthorized activities of the individuals criticized in the newspaper. A party commission under the district political directorate reviewed the personal files of communists, Lieutenant Colonel N. Kasyanenko and Captain S. Nemtsev, deputy unit commander for political affairs. Lieutenant Colonel N. Kasyanenko received a reprimand, which was entered on his record, and Captain S. Nemtsev received a severe reprimand, which was not entered on his record.

Major V. Medbedev, unit chief of staff, and Captain V. Sholupov, deputy unit commander for supply, were disciplined and brought to party accountability.

Lieutenant Colonel G. Gubarev and Engineer-Major A. Nevinskiy were severely admonished for their superficial investigation of the facts presented in the first letter from that unit.

Officers' Careers Traced

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by Lt Col N. Goryachev: "At the Very Front"]

[Text] Dear editors;

The article "Let's Talk About Daring" by Guards Major V. Vostrotin was published in an issue of AZIMUT. Vostrotin commanded an airborne battalion serving in the limited contingent of Soviet forces in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. He was awarded the Orders of the Red Banner and the Red Star for courage and heroism demonstrated while providing the Afghan people with international assistance.

V.A. Vostrotin graduated from our school with a gold medal. Three others who graduated with him in 1975 also received gold medals: A.P. Soluyanov, A.B. Il'chenko and V.F. Mel'nik. Could you tell

me how their careers have developed?--Cadet A. Pitkevich, Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School imeni Lenin Komsomol

The editors have asked Lieutenant Colonel N. Goryachev, senior instructor in the Political Section of the Airborne Troops, to respond to the reader's request.

I was amazed when I compared the information on Guards Majors Valeriy Vostrotin and Aleksandr Soluyanov. The careers of the two officers are strikingly similar. They are both graduates of Suvorov Military Schools. Valeriy graduated from the Sverdlovsk school, Aleksandr from the Kazan school. They served in the same company at the Ryazan Airborne School. They were both sergeants and deputy platoon commanders. They were good friends during their cadet years and competed spiritedly.

After graduation the young officers went to different units, but their service careers developed almost identically. They served as platoon and company commanders, battalion chiefs of staff and battalion commanders. They both performed international duty in Afghanistan. They demonstrated courage and skill there and received state awards. Soluyanov was also awarded the Orders of the Red Banner and the Red Star. They both received early promotions.

Recently, the careers of the two friends seem to be developing in different directions. Guards Major Vostrotin is a second-year student at the Military Academy imeni M.V. Frunze. Guards Major Soluyanov continues to command a battalion, but I read in his latest recommendation: "He is worthy of being sent to a military academy for training."

It was not difficult to see Vostrotin. He was in Moscow. Valeriy Aleksandrovich told me that the training is giving him profound satisfaction. He would not give an assessment of his success, however. He said that his superiors would be the judges of that. Colonel A. Yarenko, deputy chief of the academy's airborne training department, told me about it.

"Vostrotin," he said, "is an outstanding student. He works to improve himself with the same persistence which distinguished him at the school. He solves problems with a map with the same skill which he demonstrated on location in the mountains.

I was unable to meet S. Soluyanov. Hero of the Soviet Union, Guards Major General A. Slyusar' told me about him.

"He is just what I think of as a modern officer," he said. "He has a perfect knowledge of tactics and the equipment. He knows how to work with people. The battalion commanded by Guards Major Soluyanov has held first place in the unit for a long time. It was named an excellent unit in the fall of last year."

I was then given an issue of a large-circulation newspaper devoted to a recent party conference. In the lead article I read some great things about Communist Soluyanov, who inspires his subordinates with his example of personal selflessness in the military work and in the performance of his party and service duties.

While Valeriy Vostrotin and Aleksandr Soluyanov dreamed of serving as airborne officers from childhood, the sons of Colonel (Reserve) Boris Nikiforovich Il'chenko, veteran of the airborne troops and of the Great Patriotic War, did not decide right away what they would do with their lives. Their father was pleased with their love for technical things. The frontline fighter was unable to interest his sons in parachuting for sport, however. They both entered institutes. Sergey, the eldest, enrolled in the Kaunas Polytechnical School and Aleksandr, the youngest, entered the Ryazan Radio-Engineering School.

The unexpected then happened. Upon completing the first year with a brilliant record (his report booklet contained only excellent grades), Aleksandr immediately picked up his papers at the institute and took them to the Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School. Cadet Il'chenko made the first parachute jump of his life there. He liked it so much that he had 580 jumps to his credit when he graduated. He received certification as a sports master along with a gold medal for excellence in the training.

Aleksandr Il'chenko serves in the Military Transport Aviation. He is a captain and serves as chief of a regimental airborne service. He teaches parachuting to the airmen.

He has demonstrated himself to be an excellent methods expert and psychologist. This was stated with respect and gratitude by both Major G. Dernovtsev, his immediate superior, and Captains S. Volkov, A. Strukov and V. Pavlik, pilots. Captain Il'chenko now has more than 1,250 parachute jumps to his credit.

In order to verify my information on Aleksandr Il'chenko, I made another telephone call to the unit in which he serves to ask whether I had everything correct. "No, not everything," I was told from headquarters. "Captain Il'chenko has just been appointed to a new position and promoted."

I had a reason for mentioning Aleksandr's older brother Sergey. He graduated from the institute, was drafted into the military service and decided to remain in the Armed Forces. He has the military rank of major. On his collar he wears the emblem of the Airborne Troops.

I was told about the fourth medalist, Guards Captain Valeriy Mel'nik, before I learned about the others, by Guards Sergeant Ye. Leont'yev, one of his subordinates. He naturally talked about his commander from the standpoint of a sergeant, and I found this viewpoint interesting in its own way.

"Something happened in the battalion, which we were no longer accustomed to," Leont'yev said, sharing his observations with me. "One of the young soldiers had gone up several times but could not overcome his fear and leave the aircraft. Everyone agreed that he should be transferred to another branch of troops. Everyone except the battalion commander. He did not sign the transfer papers. He began working with the new man personally. He taught him patiently, instilling calmness and self-confidence in him. And the day came when the young soldier jumped from the aircraft after the battalion commander.

"The following happened quite recently. In the night Guards Private Maliyev, a mechanic-and-driver, received a telegram informing him that his mother was ill.

That night was not a peaceful one for the battalion commander either. He did everything possible to get the papers filled out and obtain the soldier a ticket by daybreak.... In short, he felt another's pain as though it were his own."

It remains to add to Guards Sergeant Leont'yev's statements information from Guards Captain V. Mel'nik's latest recommendation. It describes the officer as a skilled methods expert and experienced indoctrinator.

Four names from the school's Honor Board. Four officer careers. In my opinion they demonstrate with special convincingness how much profound knowledge and an orientation toward the achievement of the maximum mean in the shaping of a commander. After graduating from school with excellence, the officers began their service in the forces and are continuing it at the very front.

Prejudice in Declaring Competition Winners

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Col V. Bogdanovskiy, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "How They 'Designated' the Winner"]

[Text] The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editors received a letter from Captain V. Kozin. This is what he wrote: "During the last training year our control subunit was repeatedly named the winner of socialist competition for the month in the battalion. It successfully passed the final test. How surprised we were to learn that the subunit had taken only third place in the battalion."

During the entire year the subunit headed by Captain O. Brzhozovskiy had indeed been considered the leader in the competition. The author of the letter serves in that subunit.

How did those who were out front end up in only third place?

"It can all be explained very simply," I was told by Lieutenant Colonel V. Ryabkov. "You are familiar with the term 'final spurt', are you not? It was made at the end of the training period by the battery headed by Captain Rakhmatullin."

That does happen sometimes. By mobilizing all its forces and demonstrating persistence and the will to win, a lagging group can catch up with and even pass the leader in what we shall call the final stretch, adhering to the sports terminology offered by Lieutenant Colonel Ryabkov. In such a case, however, I feel we should remember that disinterested judges record the performance of the rivals add up the fractions of a second and use a photofinish for determining the winner. How was it determined in the unit that the best performance based on the year's results had been given by Captain R. Rakhmatullin's men?

According to the final order, personnel of the subunit commanded by Captain O. Brzhozovskiy had performance indicators in no way inferior to those of the leaders. In both subunits more than half of the NCOs and officers had become experts in the combat and political training. Everyone who had accepted the

commitments had improved his rating, become a rated sportsman and VSK [Military Sports Complex] badge holders. The fightingmen always successfully carried out the assigned combat training missions and handled the equipment skilfully more than once during missile launchings. It was therefore difficult to single out one of the subunits on the basis of these combat training indicators. We should not forget, however, that Captain Brzhozovskiy's men ultimately came out not even in second place, but in third place in the battalion. Does this mean that the battery commanded by Captain V. Nikiforov also made a "final spurt"? Or perhaps Captain Kozin's colleagues, who were in the lead almost the entire training year, exhausted themselves and lost out in the final stage of the competition?

Lieutenant Colonel Ryabkov answered this question by saying that members of the superior headquarters had "apparently" lowered the subunit's evaluation because of the condition of the equipment.

The vagueness of that "apparently" prompted me to call up Captain V. Kotenko, an officer at that headquarters, who checked the condition of the communication equipment in the subunit. He said that he had no complaints against Captain Brzhozovskiy's men. It was his opinion that they could perfectly well have been given the highest evaluation.

Major V. Gasan, his chief, had a different point of view, however.

He agreed that the personnel are well trained. They operate the communication equipment confidently. The subunit could still not be given more than a "four" for the state of the equipment, however.

"But Captain Kotenko, who worked there, does not feel that way. You have not had the opportunity to visit the battalion yourself. How can you be so certain?" I asked Gasan.

"Let's go there together, and I will prove that I am indeed right," the officer insisted.

That was exactly the thing to do. There is no doubt that the not entirely disinterested inspection made by Major Gasan revealed certain deficiencies in Captain Brzhozovskiy's men. On the other hand, however, had their rivals in the competition been subjected to the same sort of test, it is not clear which of them would have come out the winner. This is because a study of the inspection commission's work in the battalion brings out numerous puzzling questions.

Why, for example, had a number of fightingmen in the battalion commanded by Captain Rakhmatullin--specifically Privates Yu. Sanin and N. Yerastov, who had violated military discipline and had even been expelled from the Komsomol buro--turned out to be among the experts in the combat and political training? Even if they did excel at the range, as Lieutenant Colonel Ryabkov maintains, we must not forget that the outstanding title in the Soviet Army can be borne only by those who have not only achieved good results in the combat training but have also shown themselves to be disciplined and efficient fightingmen who strictly observe the demands of communist morality. They are well aware of all this in the unit, of course. Lieutenant Colonel Ryabkov was therefore finally forced to admit:

"We did stretch a point somewhat...."

Just one? There had been other violations of military discipline in the subunit. And these were known at the unit level. Nonetheless, the order on the results of the socialist competition reads: "The battery commanded by Captain R. Rakhmatullin has demonstrated the best organization and discipline." This can only be due to the fact that the members of the inspection commission did not demonstrate proper principle or demandingness. Officer S. Khoroshavtsev, for example, did not even enquire as to what kind of evaluations those servicemen who had violated the regulations had received in political training.

Just what is behind all of this? Why did battalion personnel deliberately resort to padding the scores for certain servicemen, and why did officers from higher headquarters look the other way? Finally, why did they still show a preference for Captain Rakhmatullin's men and not for the control subunit commanded by Captain Brzhozovskiy?

Yes, the launching batteries excelled during the field launchings. Major B. Muratov, battalion chief of staff, was right about that. But then personnel of the control subunit also performed irreproachably.

"How can you compare the two?" the officer asked with sincere surprise. "The launchers are our forefront. From them people judge the training and the level of preparation of the entire battalion...."

So that was it. What won't people do in order to put forth a good "front," so to speak, in their concern for the honor of the uniform? One basic question is overlooked, however. It is the one raised by Captain Kozin in his letter. What sort of moral damage is caused by this handling of the competition summation? A considerable amount of time has passed since the results were announced, the officer wrote, and the second month of the new training year is ending, but the personnel have not calmed down. One frequently hears statements like the following: Why try? The winner "will be designated" all the same.... I myself heard such opinions expressed in the subunit. This is the kind of moral harm caused by so-called "stretching the point."

Objectivity in the totalling of the results is one of the important factors for enhancing the mobilizing and indoctrinational role of the competition. The decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee, "On Improving the Organization and the Practices Employed for Totalling up the Socialist Competition Results and Rewarding the Winners," stresses the fact that we need to increase demandingness in the determination of competition winners and to assure that truly the best teams are rewarded.

The letter from Captain Kozin, a communist, is imbued with concern for this kind of handling of the matter. The fact should be stressed that to the honor of fightingmen in the subunit in which he serves, the lack of objectivity demonstrated left a bitter mark, as already stated, but did not extinguish the fire, the desire to be first, in the personnel. This fact is borne out by the results of the first winter training months. The subunit is once again leading in the competition for these months. This makes it all the more important to derive the proper lessons from what happened.

Plant Requests News of Its Servicemen

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 84 p 2

[Letter from Lt Col (Reserve) N. Antonov, senior instructor for military training at the Fotopribor plant in Cherkassy: "We Await News of Our Charges"]

[Text] Last fall the collective at our plant staged a formal send-off for the next group of young workers entering the army and navy. The future fightingmen heard warm words of farewell from outstanding production workers and veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

It has become a good tradition at the plant to send off our young fellow workers and then maintain close contact with them throughout their service careers. Their brigade or shop comrades correspond with the fightingmen and with their commanders. They enquire about the fightingmen's successes in the combat and political training. The information is then used to make up a special display, and the successes achieved by our envoys in the service are systematically publicized in the plant's large-circulation publication. All of this is an effective form of military-patriotic indoctrination for the plant youth.

I should point out that most of the commanders take an attitude of understanding toward our requests for photographs of their subordinates and reports on them. One thing bothers me, though. During the 6 years in which I have worked with the draft-age youth at the plant, there has never been an instance in which a unit command has at its own initiative reported to us on the service successes of the enterprise workers.

The Disciplinary Code of the Armed Forces of the USSR specifies, among other things, the following reward for soldiers and sergeants: "reporting to the serviceman's homeland or his former place of employment on his exemplary performance of the service duties and on any awards he has received."

I must regretfully say that some commanders forget about the second part of this point in the regulations. As a result, the parents of many fightingmen receive letters of gratitude from their commanders, but the management, the party and trade union organizations at our plant cannot boast of the same. And such letters would be of great help to us with respect to improving the military-patriotic indoctrination of the young plant workers, future fightingmen. I believe that our replies also could be used in the indoctrinational work performed with the personnel. I am therefore asking the commanders and political workers to remember that the labor collectives are awaiting news of their charges.

Deficiencies in Organization of Field Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 84 p 2

[Follow-up on report: "They Derived No Lessons"]

[Text] The above was the title of a report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel M. Malygin and published on 15 September 1983. It discussed deficiencies in the organization of the training process in the field in tank regiments "X" of the Southern Group of Forces.

Major General A. Bilenko, first deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the Southern Group of Forces, reported to the editors that the criticism was acknowledged as just.

The newspaper article was discussed at conferences of leading personnel. The deputy regimental commander for political affairs presented a report in the political section. Unit commanders, political workers, staffs and party organizations received specific help in eliminating the deficiencies from a comprehensive commission of officers from the staff and directorates of the Southern Group of Forces, which worked in the regiment. Questions having to do with enhancing the professional training of officers in the regiment were discussed at report-and-election party and Komsomol meetings in the regiment and at a party conference.

Individuals incharge, who permitted indulgences and simplifications in the field exercise described in the report, have been disciplined.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Mailbag

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] The editors received 27,759 letters from readers in January, 529 of which were published in the newspaper. There were 787 responses to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles.

The mail for the first month of 1984 contained many letters in which our readers reported how the personnel of the units, ships and military training institutions are preparing for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Captain V. Mamedov of the Volga Military District, Captain D. Il'yenko of the Kiev Military District and others wrote that lectures and talks are being conducted for the military electors and that consultations, question-and-answer evenings and meetings with the people's choices are being held at the agitation centers.

"The fightingmen of our unit had a cordial meeting with Hero of Socialist Labor M. Gromova, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet and machine-milking master at the Kommunarka State Pedigreed Stock Farm, who came to visit us," states a letter from Captain V. Kotkov. "They listened with unwavering attention as she told about the party's productive work to strengthen the homeland's economic power and further improve the people's welfare, and about the workdays of the nation's agricultural workers."

The readers write that all of the pre-election organizational and mass political work is having the best possible effect with respect to mobilizing the personnel to successfully accomplish the combat and political training tasks and to completely fulfill their commitments in the socialist competition with the slogan: "Be On the Alert and in a Constant State of Readiness to Defend the Conquests of Socialism"! The patriotic strivings of fightingmen in the army and navy are clearly demonstrated in their military work and in their successes on the combat training fields, on cruises and flights.

"As we prepare for the elections," reports Warrant Officer V. Pavlov, "our ship's crew have given their word to perform all of the combat training tasks with good ratings. We are backing up our words with deeds."

The editors continue to receive letters from the readers expressing fervent approval for Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's answers to questions posed by the newspaper PRAVDA. "No one will succeed in dulling the vigilance of the peoples with false statements about the world having become 'safer'," states a group letter to the editors from Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) A. Litman, N. Dronov, A. Lysenko and other veterans of the Great Patriotic War from the city of Reutov in Moscow Oblast. "Imperialism's reactionary forces are following in the footsteps of fascism. We will be on guard"!

In numerous letters to the editors the Soviet fightingmen unanimously support the foreign policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, directed against the exacerbation of the danger of war by leading circles of the USA and NATO. They state their resolve to continue persistently improving their combat skills and tirelessly enhance their vigilance and their preparedness to defend the socialist homeland and the great conquests of socialism.

Decisions coming out of the December 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and reports on the 9th Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation, are at the center of attention for our readers. The letters cite examples confirming the fact that fightingmen of the army and navy have set a good pace in the combat training, that they are assessing their work with demandingness and are resolutely combatting deficiencies and violations of military discipline and regulation order.

In January the editors received 401 reports on steps taken in response to letters sent out for discussion. This demonstrates the fact that the requests, complaints and suggestions sent to the newspaper by the readers are being carefully studied.

At the same time, some officials sometimes disregard objectivity and pass off wishful thinking for reality. O. Smirnov, one of our readers in Ussuriysk, wrote about this. He was clearly not satisfied with the reply from Lieutenant Colonel V. Kramarenko, which listed the steps taken to improve the military post. "In reality, the steps were simply written down and went no further," a second letter to the editors states. I believe that the reader's acute warning will not go unheeded by the leaders concerned and that effective steps will be taken in response to it.

The editors thank all of the readers who sent letters and their responses to the newspaper articles to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

Condition of Officers' Dormitory Deplored

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Yurkin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District: "In the Indifference Zone--Concern is not Shown for the Young Officers' Living Conditions in Air Garrison 'X'"]

[Text] The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editors received a letter from reader Ya. Matikov. He wrote that there is neither a radio nor a television set and that living conditions are very poor in general in the young officers' dormitory where he is temporarily living while on a detached duty assignment.

"We shall certainly look into it," Colonel I. Borzov, chief of the propaganda and agitation section and deputy chief of the district political directorate, said when he had read the letter. "We will correct the situation...."

After reading the letter a second time, Ivan Andreyevich picked up the telephone and issued some instructions. It was learned that a commission from the political section of the district air forces, headed by Colonel Yu. Germashov, was working in the garrison in which the officers' dormitory was located. According to Borzov, he had been ordered to look into the situation and help the young air-men put the living conditions in order. This prompt intervention made the men happy and gave them hope that steps would soon be taken.

A few days later Colonel I. Borzov made the people happy with some more good news. He reported that a radio facility was operating at the garrison and that a television set had been set up in the dormitory.

"We can consider the matter resolved," the political worker said with satisfaction. "Order has been established...."

Sometime later I had the occasion to visit that garrison. It turned out that nothing had changed there.

"The lieutenants listen to the radio on their own," Major I. Bartkevichus, deputy commander of the separate airfield technical maintenance battalion, said. "Everyone has a receiver these days...."

I went with him and A. Kostyleva, manager of the officers' dormitory, to the radiator. It was cold. The heating season had long since begun and there was a boiler room at the military post, but it was freezing in the dormitory. It turned out that during the long Transcaucasus summer the rear service specialists and workers in the garrison's billeting unit had not managed to restore the heat-distribution network and were now connecting it in stages. The young air-men's dormitory was last on the list. There was either no water at all or else it would just barely trickle out of the faucets on the first floor.

Water from the roof made up for the lack of well water, however. The builders had made the roof with a defect, and the billeting workers had not found time to plug the hole. Puddles formed in the rooms everytime it began raining.

"This is the fault of the builders," Bartkevichus said. "What can we do"?

A great deal could be done, however. First of all, heat and water could be supplied. Right now the work on the heat and water supply systems is being delayed by poor organization of the work of the specialists employed at those facilities. Nor would it be especially difficult to return the boilers to life, so that after completing their flights and servicing the aircraft equipment the lieutenants could take a shower and change clothes. At the present time washing-up has become a problem. The regular city bus does not run very frequently, and work goes on at the airfield round-the-clock. And so the pilots and technicians are forced to bow to the stockers, who let them wash in the boiler room for "four bits a head." This is no secret to Lieutenant Colonel A. Perestenko, battalion

commander, Major I. Kostylev, subunit political worker, and other officials whose service duty requires them to see to the airmen's living conditions.

The young officers also requested that a sort of information area be set up in the hall or one of the dormitory rooms. They would like to collect newspapers and magazines there and literature for preparing for political classes, political briefings and talks. The lieutenants have no such area for their classes, just as they have no place where they can visit with one another and have a friendly chat. The hall provided by the designers for these purposes has a pitted floor, long unpainted, windows with cracks in them and a cold radiator. This is the whole interior.

How can the officers themselves accept such a situation in their home? I addressed this question to Senior Lieutenant Sergey Degtyarev and certain other young airmen.

"We could do a great deal ourselves, of course," the officer said. "And we have made attempts. We have never received any support, however."

The young officers are willing not only to help with the cosmetic repairs but even to work on the heat line and the shower units. There are specialists among them, and their enthusiasm has not been destroyed. This enthusiasm on the part of the youth has not inspired officials in the battalion or the regiment, however. Officer A. Bur'yan, political worker, waved his hand and frowned at mention of the young officers' dormitory. He was fed up with that dormitory.

There is yet another side to the indifference manifested toward the young officers. It is also harmful to the airmen's moral indoctrination. For example, they can see that the negligence of the rear service specialists, who have not provided the dormitory with heat, has not only gone unpunished but has also cost the state considerably. In order to warm up, the lieutenants have installed heaters in every room. This overloads the system, and the electricians patch it up with primitive methods each day.

This is the situation in the dormitory. Despite this, the commission, which is headed by a responsible worker from the political section of the district air forces, has reported to the district political directorate that steps have been taken.

I attended a party meeting of the airmen. What disturbed me was the fact that neither in the report nor the speeches was a single word said about the officers' dormitory. The young officers were criticized more than once, and their errors were pointed out to them. Their senior comrades remained silent about their living conditions, however. Is it not due to the indifference demonstrated toward the young airmen that they have become convinced that it is useless and dangerous to speak up, and especially to complain. Everyone I talked with willingly told me about their life in the dormitory, but they always asked me not to mention their names. Otherwise, they would pay for it dearly. And Major Bartkevichus asked me not to mention the name of the billeting unit chief, so as not to spoil relations with him.

I recently visited that garrison again and I saw with bitterness that little had changed in the dormitory. They had whitewashed the walls in the corridors, to be sure, hung curtains on the windows and placed chairs in the hall. There was still no television set or radio, however, and most important, no heat.

...The airmen have a flight zone where they work to improve their flight skills. Regretfully, they have another zone as well--an indifference zone, which is fraught with danger for the airmen's moral health.

It also occurred to me that specific officials are at fault for these failings. And now, as it was underscored at the December 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, we need to talk not just about shortcomings, but about the specific workers behind the shortcomings as well.

11499

CSO: 1801/221

ARMED FORCES

HELICOPTER PILOT V. YE. PAVLOV PROFILED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 84 p 6

[Article by special PRAVDA correspondent V. Verstakov, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Colonel Pavlov's Notebook, We Serve the Soviet Union!"]

[Text] We first met in the crowded combined-arms headquarters building. I had long since observed, incidentally, that pilots finding themselves in a staff environment will speak a little more softly than everybody else, avoid the offices of senior officials and in general take on the appearance of wanting to apologize for something before there's any reason to. Possibly because the weather's good for flying, and they're not flying.

Colonel Pavlov, though, had been flying since morning and now, as he spoke with someone on the telephone, used his free hand to fit his white cloth helmet liner into the headset lying on the table in front of him. Twenty minutes later, as we left the office together to head out for the street, Vitaliy Yegorovich takes this headset with him and along with it, not without some hesitation, a general-purpose notebook in a reddish brown jacket, something like the color of dried blood.

Now pilots will rarely keep diaries—before and after their flights they have to make so many entries in official records that as a rule, they have neither the time nor the energy to keep any purely personal record. And the notebook in the reddish brown dust jacket is not really in diary in the true sense of the term, either. It contains diagrams of some particularly difficult landings and takeoffs, computations, notes on weather conditions, names, dates.... The dates go back one year, two years in some cases, but the notes are more recent, some from this week, some from earlier in the month. A notebook to aid the memory. That's what the journalists call it, of course; Pavlov puts it more simply:

"That's right, just some notes about comrades, nothing made up...."

Vitaliy Yegorovich Pavlov, Hero of the Soviet Union, is a helicopter pilot. Back in the 1940's when this new aircraft was just becoming popular, it was such an innovation that in the fall of 1948, the aircraft designer A. N. Tupolev, for example, made special trip to the test field being used by the helicopter designer M. L. Mil' just to see for himself that something like this could actually fly. Today the rotorcraft has already become something of a commonplace and indispensable both to the functioning of our national economy and to the defense of our country.

Pavlov, though, had always dreamed about airplanes. He was born a year before the victory; he doesn't remember the great war personally, of course, but he's felt its wounds all his life. His father, Yegor Zakharovich, was a rayon committee secretary in Trubchevsk; he led a machine gun platoon at the front and came home minus his left arm. Vitaliy's sister, Masha, died during the war, his mother, Anisiya Ivanovna, after the war. Three brothers and two sisters survived. Vitaliy went to work in an industrial plant before he had finished school and so had to complete his schooling at night school; he thought about going to a chemical institute, but in his dreams he saw the skies. These dreams drove him to the local military commissariat, where he received authorization to enter the flight training school at Syzran'. He was thunderstruck, though, when he found out he was not going to be flying on wings, but rather on rotors. He wondered whether or not he ought to go back home, but in the end he stayed. And he never regretted it. He became a good pilot at the school, and this suddenly complicated things for him: they didn't release him for military assignment, but rather kept him on as an instructor. Then for 12 years, with a break to attend the academy, of course, he taught other people how to fly helicopters; at this point he was assigned to a regiment, from where three years later he was assigned to a new place of service....

From the headquarters building we headed for Vitaliy Yegorovich's place. The spring on the small gate creaked as we made our way into the yard and started down a narrow path toward the side door of a rather darkened two-story building. Pavlov transferred the headset and his notebook to his left hand to fish the key out of his coat pocket—his first-floor apartment was locked, since his wife was at work and his son and daughter were still at school. We had about an hour, but even that wasn't a certainty: "activities" were under way—that's the cautious term military people use to refer to just about any type of combat training operations—and they could be calling Pavlov any time.

I want to get my hands on that notebook as quick as I can, but, on the other hand, it's a little awkward to ask somehow—the author, after all, is right here beside me and he could tell me everything that's in it and more and add the details to boot. Pavlov is also a little hesitant: he jotted down these notes for himself, after all; they're a little too subjective, he thinks; they'd hardly be suitable to put in a newspaper....

But then while we were thinking all this over, the realities of army life decided the thing for us: the telephone rang—they were calling Vitaliy Yegorovich back to headquarters, but I didn't go this time....

So, I return to my hotel room and open the notebook; I read the opening lines: "No, stay there!" This is the title, or rather, the epigraph, to the notes Pavlov had entered in his notebook concerning the heroic feat turned in by an Mi-8 crew commanded by his subordinate, Kabdulin. The crew had been assigned the mission of evacuating 30 men from a location high in the mountains. "Location" probably wasn't the right word for the place; it was, rather, just a ledge on a cliff that wasn't even big enough for a helicopter to get all three of its wheels on. So Kabdulin set the helicopter down on one wheel, held it there, loaded the people and the radioed back to a superior (farther up the chain of command than Pavlov) that neither he nor any other pilot was going to be able to put a helicopter back down there so he was loading up everybody all together and lifting off. If the ledge had been a little lower and the load a little lighter, the helicopter could

take off, but the officer knew his aviation: in this case the helicopter could only fall. So at that point he radioed back: "No, stay there!" There was no staying there either, of course, and Pavlov came on the air now in communication with his direct subordinate.... He explains in his notebook: "By that time we had already developed a method of taking off, or to put it more precisely, of falling off places like this with maximum takeoff weight."

Kabdulin's helicopter plunged 600 meters into the abyss before it began any horizontal flight; Pavlov devoted three pages in his notebook to this incident: a diagram, computations and a description of the procedure employed. The writing was all done after, though; the figuring and the personal experience came first.

"I've never seen anything like that before in my entire life and I'll never see it again." This was the epigraph, now, to the description of an incident, in which Pavlov was a personal participant, as a pilot that is. I didn't catch on immediately, though, that Vitaliy Yegorovich was in fact personally involved. The epigraph conveys something of the agitated state of engineer Gerasimov, who, as Pavlov explains, "was working harder on the ground than I was in the air; he was doing everything but standing on his head." And there was enough here to stand the engineer in his head: Pavlov had been given the assignment of piloting an Mi-8 to a point up in the mountains almost two kilometers above sea level and then hoisting a similar machine with his external suspension system and evacuating it. Some of the components of the evacuated helicopter had to be removed, of course, but if I hadn't seen a photograph of these two helicopters in the air tied together with cables I still wouldn't have believed it. And I wouldn't even begin to try to understand any of the calculations covering the next several pages in this notebook.

To Pavlov, figures speak much more eloquently and meaningfully than any pictures or words ever could. Some of his comrades-in-arms, for example, like to tell the following story. Some mountain climbers who had recently completed a spectacular ascent were giving a program at the garrison officers club one time. The climbers showed some film they had shot and were going into some of the details that weren't brought out by the film, including, for example, purely technical details such as how much weight they had had to carry. Pavlov whipped out his notepad, jotted a few things down and then, when it came time for questions, inquired of the climbers: "And what did you do with the oxygen bottles you didn't use?" The climbers, a little disconcerted now, replied: "We left them behind...." Pavlov slammed his notepad shut in disgust. He had been jotting down columns of figures on altitude, oxygen required per person and ascent times; down at the bottom he had draw a big black box around the figure for the number of wasted oxygen bottles.

Incidentally, I think one of the reasons for the unsuccessful artistic presentations of today's military we see from time to time, particularly the portrayals of the modern-day officer in literature, on the screen and in the theater, is to be found in an overemphasis placed upon the masculine, intuitive aspects of the characters and a neglect, or underestimation, of the engineering, scientific and analytical components of the modern military mission. Another problem is that a crew may be so daring and imaginative, that its success may appear to other a something of a miracle and be seen as rewarding mindless dare-devilry.

Pavlov, however, takes an uncompromisingly dim view of "rashness." "Indiscipline will be punished by all means possible, assuming, that is, that there's somebody

left to punish." Following this sentence is a note concerning a pilot who accomplished a truly heroic feat in any sense of the term and miraculously survived; he was rescued by assault troops on the ground, who were pulled from their own operation for some 10 minutes to give him assistance. The assault troops forgave the pilot, but Pavlov couldn't: he took his subordinate off flight status, which is the severest form of punishment for a pilot.

One last incident involving calculations, now. Pavlov was returning from a mission on one occasion when he received a request over his radio: pick up three men up in the mountains and deliver them to their air base. They had to be picked up immediately and taken to their base immediately. He had barely enough fuel, but it not for nothing that the request had been made, and the requestor was in a position to be giving orders; so Pavlov turned off into the mountains. He landed, picked up his people and took off; after lifting off he took another look at his instruments and realized immediately that he wasn't going to make it to the air base. So he then...switched off an engine, one of the two engines keeping his Mi-8 up in the air. Horizontal flight on a single engine up in the rarified mountain air is virtually impossible, but Pavlov was able to calculate how fast he was being forced down and match it with his distance remaining to the air base. "Those four minutes were like many hours to me, and the needle on the fuel gauge looked like it was dipping down toward zero a little faster than it ordinarily did..."—this was the only entry in the entire notebook that had anything to do with the pilot's own personal experience.

That night I returned once again to Pavlov's place to return the notebook. But, alas, I had missed Vitaliy Yegorovich by about ten minutes: he had just left to participate in some more "activities," but I couldn't wait—I, too, had to leave in an hour for another garrison. Pavlov's children opened the door for me—Larisa, a 10th-grader, and Sasha, a 5th-year student. Their mother, Inessa Aleksandrovna, a feldsher for a military unit, was on duty today. So the three of us sat down and talked a little. Sasha turns out to be a lot like his father: quiet smile, not very talkative. Larisa, now temporarily in charge as the lady of the house, brought out an album with photographs. One particular photo sticks in my memory somehow—a photocopy of a wall newspaper picture of some helicopter pilots which appeared in an issue a year and a half or so ago. I can make out some fine print, lines from somebody's poem: "We hold the memory of a fallen soldier dearer than gold." And then I think of Pavlov and the preflight briefing I heard him give and then conclude with the words: "I'll be lifting off first today."

I ask Larisa about her father. She tells me he didn't sleep for almost two months after he returned from his previous assignment: he would just lie there, then get up and go into the kitchen and smoke and smoke. It now suddenly turns out that Larisa herself has already flown many times in a helicopter and has even parachuted—the upper-class students at the school here have a parachute club. She was really frightened before her first jump, but her father shamed her and she finally went ahead and jumped. A friend of her father's telephoned her mother to calm her down: everything's alright, he said, your daughter jumped three times in one day. When she got back home, Larisa, now having been found out, hid in the bathroom, while Sasha ran to get his father to save his sister from their mother's wrath. Then she made her thirteenth jump, for which she was given parachute No. 13 and a helmet with the same number. Everybody, including even her instructor,

tried to talk her out of jumping that day. But her father rechecked her parachute and said: "Jump." She was not, it's true, very successful with her landing: there was some wind.... Sasha interrupted his sister at this point:

"Don't go into any of the details, otherwise, if Mama finds out, she'll have it in for us and Father...."

8963

CSO: 1801/234

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Disciplinary Action for Training Deficiencies

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 84 p 2

[Article: "What Was Hidden Behind the 'Private Incident'"]

[Text] This was the title of the critical correspondence from Captain 2nd Rank A. Zlydnev and Senior Lieutenant A. Rozhnov which was published on 20 October 1983. The question in it concerned deficiencies in combat training on one of the ships of the Pacific Ocean Fleet and the absence of proper supervision on the part of the unit headquarters in following progress in eliminating them.

It is reported in the official reply received by the editorial office that the correspondence was discussed with the ship's commanders and the political workers of the unit [soyedineniye]. During the discussion, the question concerned ways of increasing the quality of special training and improving the planning of combat training. At the present time, studies are being conducted with personnel in strict compliance with the requirements of management documents. Staff specialists not only supervise, but also take a direct part in organizing the training process on ships.

A severe reprimand was given to Captain 2nd Rank A. Isay for dereliction of duty. He was also punished according to the party line. The personnel file of the ship's political worker Captain 3rd Rank V. Demchenko was examined. He was given a severe reprimand with an entry made on his registration form.

Personally unfinished work was explained severely to Engineer Captain 1st Rank S. Moskalenko and Captain 2nd Rank Yu. Agarkov.

A severe reprimand was given to Captain 3rd Rank Yu. Kozyrev through whose fault the official reply arrived late at the editorial office.

Officers Criticized for Not Rendering Assistance

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Major N. Medvedev: "Sensitiveness in Accordance With a Phone Call"]

[Text] At the end of last year my son-in-law Lieutenant V. Kovalenko received an assignment to one of the units of the Ural Military District. Unfortunately, and I'll say it frankly, at the new location the family, which has a two-year old kid, was treated callously. Since 28 December of last year at the station, young people can't get the container with their baggage. First the son-in-law is busy on duty and then there's no vehicle. And it's several dozen kilometers from the military post to the station. And that's the way the young family lives, not having their most essential things for everyday life and, besides, the fine is increasing for delaying the container. Of course I can understand the official concerns of the lieutenant. But weren't there really any comrades there next to him who could have helped him? A. Andriashkina.

In reality, the young family had to be bothered 20 days because of the absence of the most essential things. It required the intervention of Major General A. Shibayev, personnel department chief of the Ural Military District, before the container was finally obtained. How could such a thing have happened?

I put this question to Lieutenant Colonel A. Yefimenko. It turns out that on Lieutenant Kovalenko's first appeal to him, the lieutenant colonel authorized him to go after the container, but didn't think about the fact that without his special instructions nobody would give the young officer a vehicle. And later, as the lieutenant colonel explains, duty interests didn't allow the lieutenant to be absent from the subunit [podrazdeleniye].

I think, however, that this isn't the entire truth. After a telephone call from the district's headquarters, as we already know, both a vehicle was found immediately in the unit and the possibility cropped up for the lieutenant to concern himself with solving his problem. But really couldn't Major V. Gorbunov, a political worker, and Lieutenant M. Parshakov, the secretary of the Komsomol committee, have immediately rendered assistance to the young comrade?

Disciplinary Action for Poor Living Conditions

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 84 p 2

[Article: "In the Zone of Indifference"]

[Text] This was the title of the correspondence from Lieutenant Colonel A. Yurkin which was published on 17 January. The question concerned the poor living conditions in the officers quarters of one of the Transcaucasus Military District's garrisons.

Major General N. Merkushev, the district's first deputy chief of the political directorate, reported that the newspaper's statement was scrutinized at the VVS [Air Force] military council of the district, also at meetings with the commander in the VVS political department of the district, and in party and Komsomol organizations of aviation units and subunits [podrazdeleniye]. Specific measures were determined for improving the everyday life of young officers and warrant officers. A new social council was chosen in the officers quarters which were spoken about in the newspaper. The quarters are being repaired.

The battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel A. Perestenko was transferred to the reserve for serious dereliction of duty and irresponsible regard for the everyday life of subordinates. Officer communists I. Kostylev and I. Bartkevichus were made answerable to the party. A. Kostyleva, the manager of the quarters, was relieved of her job.

Command Criticized for Poor Discipline

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Vice Admiral V. Petrov: "Why the Subunit Became 'Difficult'"]

[Text] A letter of officer O. Nikitin arrived at the editorial office in which he writes: "I'm serving in one of the rear area subunits [podrazdeleniye] of the Northern Fleet. As they say about us, we're in a 'difficult' unit. Our collective has been lagging behind for several years now. Lagging behind became so customary that many in the subunit resigned themselves to it. Well, the command headquarters has no time for a problem like ours. For example, the fact that the subunit has been without a commander for a long time counts for a lot. Sometimes in return they send us officers and warrant officers who proved to be the worst in other units. They're sent as if to correct things. But often, instead of it, the reverse occurs. These undisciplined comrades infect the others with their indifference towards service. For the time being, the most severe penalties are not providing any effect. That's the way it is sometimes--you struggle and struggle and simply lose heart."

/The editorial office familiarized Vice Admiral V. Petrov, deputy commander of the Red Banner Northern Fleet and commander of the fleet's rear services, with officer O. Nikitin's letter and invited him to express his opinion./ [in boldface]

Comrade Nikitin, you must recognize that the situation in the subunit where you are serving is really not yet at the proper level. In this connection, the rebuke concerning the command headquarters is not unfounded, and particularly the command headquarters of the fleet's rear services. The officers of the fleet's rear services seldom dropped in on the lagging subunit, and the solution of some personnel problems was delayed in an unjustified manner.

Today specific organizational and educational measures are being taken on our part to correct matters and put things in order. Rear services staff officers Captain 2nd Rank Ye. Cherepanov and Captain 3rd Rank I. Prabarshuk, specialists

of a number of services, were working recently in the subunit. They rendered specific assistance on the spot to the new subunit commander officer I. Tkach and other comrades in organizing the training and educational process and improving the peoples' everyday life.

Comrad Nikitin, you are correct in speaking about the harm which writing off the violators of discipline from ships and units is inflicting on some subunits of the rear services. This leads to the fact that now and then undisciplined sailors are assembled in one collective and extremely complex problems appear before the educators. Of course, it's necessary to get rid of similar practices in the most decisive manner.

But if one really thoroughly analyzes the reasons which made your subunit "difficult," it must be emphasized that many of them lie within the collective itself.

In a direct way the state of affairs in the subunit depends on the level of political and educational work. Alas, in your subunit it leaves much to be desired. The quality of political studies is low and little attention is being devoted to specific work with people.

The following sentence in your letter attracted my attention: "For the time being, the most severe penalties are not providing any effect." This is not simply a sentence. Behind it is a characteristic feature of the work style of the subunit's officers. As the analysis showed, many of them chose the use of extreme disciplinary measures as the basic and only way of influencing subordinates.

Officer V. Smagin and Warrant Officer V. Vishnyakov became the talk of the town in the collective. These are the same "incorrigibles" whom, as you write, "you can't get at." The penalties didn't really "get at" them. But this is the question--did any of the subunits' commanders or communists even attempt to "get at" them through ordinary human attention, did anybody attempt to explain why they are living without regard for service and to gain an understanding of what hinders them in serving in a normal manner and what problems are troubling and burdening them? Alas, nobody even spoke with them seriously.

What can be worse for an educator than a poor knowledge of subordinates? A lack of understanding of the motives for "incorrigibles'" conduct comes from here, and precisely from here, and the same weakness in the struggle with violators of discipline also comes from here.

There is also still one rather important reason for the low effectiveness of political and educational work in the "difficult" subunit. This is an absence of the personal example of some officials and the divergence of words and deeds. The communists I. Sinyuk and V. Svalov talk a great deal, including from the rostrums of lofty meetings, about the necessity of putting things in immaculate order. But how can their words be worth anything if they themselves don't show an example in service?

At the regular plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee K. U. Chernenko emphasized: "All sorts of blabbing and irresponsibility are not only turning over material costs for society, but they cause serious social and moral damage." All of us must treat our work with such a strict party measure. One should also approach an evaluation of the situation which formed in the "difficult" subunit with a measure of this kind. It will cease being "difficult" only if everyone, beginning from the command headquarters of the fleet's rear services to the subunit itself, undertakes to put it in order in an amicable and assertive manner.

Officer's Illegal Disciplinary Order Rescinded

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Colonel of Justice V. Gurinovich, military procurator of the Central Asian Military District: "The Procurator Makes an Objection"]

[Text] Dear editorial staff!

My orders concerning the dismissal of a soldiers mess hall manager from her job and the punishment of two other workers were rescinded in accordance with an objection from our garrison's military procurator. But the manager allowed the misappropriation of provisions and the other workers got into squabbles. All of this had a negative influence on conditions in the collective of industrial, office and professional workers. I am convinced that the rescission of my orders, which were directed at strengthening lawfulness and labor discipline, won't work to the benefit of the matter, but will only aggravate the abnormal situation. Major V. Denisenko, commander of a military construction detachment.

/Colonel of Justice V. Gurinovich, military procurator of the Central Asian Military District comments on this letter at the request of the editorial office./ [in boldface]

I'll say right away: while being concerned about strengthening the order and discipline in a labor collective, a manager of course can't leave a single case of subordinates' violating established regulations and, all the more, laws without taking notice and responding. And in this sense of course, the strictness of the commander of the military construction detachment meets with approval. There's no doubt about the fact that he wanted to do to the best of his abilities and to strive for normal operation of the mess hall where his subordinates are fed. However it is known that it's possible to maintain lawfulness only through legal methods. But this is exactly what you can't say about the decisions made by Major Denisenko.

Let's begin with the penalties declared for them. Two violations of the law were committed here immediately. First of all, the penalties are imposed on industrial, office and professional workers only for their violation of labor discipline. But in the order on the workers' punishment the question concerned the fact that they "talk in high tones of voice," "express open dissatisfaction" and so forth in connection with the poor operation of the local military exchange store. And it turns out that through his order, as it were, the officer endeavored to protect the military exchange workers and indeed himself from just

criticism. Well, his second mistake was that the commander didn't enlist the support of the appropriate trade union organs. In fact, one of the "violators of discipline" is a member of the trade union committee and the other is chairman of the local trade union committee. And so, consent is necessary when punishing these workers: first, that of the trade union committee and secondly, that of the higher trade union organ.

Now about the dismissal of the mess hall manager from her job. Specific instances of misappropriating provisions, which supposedly took place, were actually named in the order. But why did the garrison's military procurator doubt them? Indeed because the mess hall manager's guilt was not proven. And how could it be proven if, for example, the public inspectors discover provisions in a cabinet for which many people have keys. Or the provisions are detected on the workers when they depart the premises of the military post, but nobody knows whether the people had them when they showed up for work. In short, the garrison's military procurator was absolutely right when he pointed out in his objection that "the guilt of the mess hall manager for petty misappropriation was not proven and was based only on a single suspicion." Thereby he ordered the commander of the military construction detachment to put the mess hall in proper order. This is the kind of order in which it is always known how many and what kind of provisions have come into the mess hall, how they were expended, who actually uses the various subsidiary premises, and finally in which cabinet mess hall workers must keep personal belongings.

It is to be supposed that now Major Denisenko has no doubts concerning the fairness and legality of requirements of the garrison's military procurator. But I think that he would have understood them from the very beginning, if he had received an appropriate interpretation. Unfortunately, the procurator didn't consider it necessary to comment on his objection in detail.

Officer Complains About Party Nonacceptance

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Major I. Kosenko: "According to a Strict Accounting"]

[Text] Dear editorial staff! At a recent party meeting I was accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU. Lieutenant I. Prokopenko, the deputy battery commander for the political unit was the first to speak at it. He began to talk about the fact that too often I remind him of his duties, but forget about my own, and therefore I'm not worthy of being in the party ranks. Captain S. Rusikov also was against it. On the contrary, communists S. Dubov, V. Lagutin and N. Savchenko thought it was possible to accept me. Then Captain A. Tsarev spoke. He said that he shares the opinion of communists Prokopenko and Rusikov and that it's necessary to wait while the platoon which I command successfully fulfills the high socialist pledges which were made. Thereby the meeting as it were confronted me with this condition: if the platoon becomes an outstanding one, then at that time I'll be a candidate member of the party. I invite you to come and investigate everything.

Sergey Vladimirovich, I'll begin where your letter ends. Of course, your hope that the arrival of a correspondent will influence the party organization is

behind the lines concerning your invitation to come and investigate. Incidentally, during the first minute of our meeting you emphasized the fact already that you pinned special hopes on me.

I repeat again: only the primary party organization decides the matter of party admittance. Only the voice of the communists and only the party collective's decision confirmed by the party commission attached to the party department has decisive importance. I speak about this because once in a while a letter similar to yours arrives at the editorial office. The authors of these letters express dissatisfaction about the fact that they were refused admittance to the party and they are complaining of prejudice and subjectivity. They formed an erroneous opinion, and as if intervention from without will help to change a decision already made.

One can also see something else behind this--disrespect for the opinion of the party collective. Isn't it strange that a person intends to join the ranks of the party organization and he ignores the advice and wishes of communists with whom he works side by side and who know him best of all? In my opinion, it's a noteworthy fact that first of all you had a long talk with the secretary of the party committee about your desire to become a candidate member of the CPSU and a recommendation had already been made, but the secretary of the battery and the division party organization didn't know about this. And what's more, in the conversation with me you couldn't even tell me who is the head of the party organization in the division.

Many with whom I spoke expressed a thought of this kind: Savin, they say, knew that they would bring complaints against him at the party organization and therefore, they say, he decided to enlist the support of the party committee secretary. And it's true that at the division's party meeting of communists it was talked about how you pricked up the ears of many with your own personal behavior: you began service with conflicts with the deputy battery commander for the political unit, displays of arrogance and unconscientiousness in performing your duties were noted, and you also have a disciplinary penalty for lack of preparedness for studies. As we see, the complaints are serious. Of course, you also have merits. It was noted that you are a first-class specialist and an experienced commander of a training platoon. And if one were to speak about an over-all conclusion, it would be this: you still need to work on yourself and eliminate the shortcomings, and then the party organization also will return to considering the question of admitting you as a candidate member of the CPSU.

It appears that there is nothing inappropriate in Captain Tsarev's suggestion. In fact, the matter must also be precisely this way. A person entering the party is obliged to show his worth in deed and to provide high results in the entrusted area. The main thing is to have a good attitude towards deeds, and the regular CPSU Central Committee plenum emphasized this with new force. Doubts have appeared among your comrades as to whether the pledge taken by the platoon which you command to become an outstanding one will be fulfilled. And how did you deal with the reply to this? Already after the party meeting you ordered your subordinates to renounce the pledges made earlier, they say it will be difficult to fulfill them, and they noted understated gains in training. Isn't it true that this is a strange position for a person affirming that he is already mature enough to be a communist?

It's also possible to add this fact to it. When the deputy battery commander for the political unit remarked to you that it's necessary to work more with the active platoon, you snapped: it's not my concern; you get involved with it yourself.

At the same time, you have as it were proofs of your correctness. They say people gave me recommendations and somebody also supported them at the meeting. Quite naturally, everybody has the right to express and persist in one's point of view. By no means am I disputing this, and I invite you only to pay attention to the following circumstance: already after the meeting the opinions of those who voted for you had changed. They also said to me that "they didn't want to distress Savin" and that "on the whole he's not a bad person." You must admit that these aren't the most forcible arguments in cases of this kind.

The party urges us to evaluate each communist according to the most strict accounting. It's also the same for somebody who wants to become one. As you see, the majority of the division's communists were imbued with this feeling. And now, Sergey Vladimirovich, it's for you to think this over. You must especially set much store by this strict demand and constantly make it of yourself and of others.

Qualifications for Women in Military Service

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Colonel I. Malakhov, a worker of the USSR Ministry of Defense Main Administration of Personnel: "How to Join the Military Service"]

[Text] Dear editorial staff! I'm dreaming about devoting myself to service in the armed forces. My grandfather and my mother's three brothers defended the motherland. Other male relatives also bore military service. One of them--Warrant Officer Vladimir Tymko--is also in service today. He really convinced me too that my dream is completely feasible. The more so as I'm a nurse by profession. But what specifically is it necessary to undertake in order to join the military service? Galina Babeshko. Alma Ata.

/Colonel I. Malakhov, a worker of the USSR Ministry of Defense Main Administration of Personnel replies to the reader's letter./ [in boldface]

Dear Galina Vladimirovna! You were correctly informed. Indeed, women can be accepted for military service during peacetime. Candidates must be characterized favorably according to work or training and be medically suitable for service.

Women up to the age of 30--reserve officers who completed VUZ's and received appropriate training in military departments, as well as those who completed a VUZ for specialties and related military (officer ranks are given them upon determination for military service)--are accepted for filling officer positions. Women are accepted as well up to the age of 30 for army and navy warrant officer positions. They must have higher or secondary special education and a

related appropriate military specialty. Unmarried women not having children and from the ages of 19 to 40 with an education no lower than the 8th grade are accepted for soldier, sailor, sergeant and master sergeant positions (with the rights of extended service military personnel).

Female military personnel spend their service at headquarters, political organs, units, military institutions (including military medical ones, Galina Vladimirovna), VUZ's, organizations and enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Defense.

Women expressing a desire to join the military service must apply to the military registration and enlistment office for the place of residence. The military registration and enlistment offices have at their disposal information on needs for female military service personnel according to specific specialties, select candidates and draw up the necessary documents.

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CSO: 1801/235

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Inside front cover: Photograph by A. Romanov

Inside back cover: Article by S. Shabalin, "A Stand for Repairing Electric Measuring Instruments"

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CSO: 1801/200

GROUND FORCES

MISSILE LAUNCH EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by Captain O. Vladykin: "The Daily Life of a Rocketeer--Sons in Motherland's Service"]

[Text] The battery had finally arrived in its designated area after a march of many kilometers. The missilemen had hardly brought their vehicles to a halt before work began on the preparation of a firing position. Even those whose hands control this most modern of weapons reached for the entrenching tools. A soldier is still a soldier, after all. Even if he's going to be operating sophisticated electronic equipment. For he must always remember: a well-dug trench is going to provide him a reliable shelter.

Junior Sergeant Sergey Zavzyaty and Privates Petr Kulashov and Dmitriy Koval'-chuk applied themselves enthusiastically to the task of getting those cubic meters of earth removed. These are all experienced missilemen: you don't have to explain to them why they have to get involved in this kind of rough manual military labor. They know that anything can happen on the battlefield. The "enemy" is always going to be trying to destroy their launcher. It is by no means an easy task to hold oneself in readiness to meet him and to be sure one can fight effectively to keep the launcher in operation. And then on top of all that, when they launch their missile the crew is going to have to have a place to take cover in when that fiery whirlwind breaks over the launch site.

So in a word, these troops worked quickly and efficiently. Koval'chuk looked to be particularly enthusiastic. It hadn't been necessary to get him used to digging in the ground. He had completed his work at the vocational-technical school before beginning his military service and had worked as a drill operator looking for water-bearing formations. How many kolkhoz and sovkhoz fields he had helped provide with life-giving water all over the right-bank Ukraine. In a word, Dmitriy loves working in the ground.

"OK, Dima, you go ahead and get the vehicle, and we'll finish up here ourselves," Junior Sergeant Zavzyaty suddenly suggested.

Koval'chuk interpreted this request from his superior as an order. So he unquestioningly laid aside his shovel and set out for the launcher. It was not, however, without another purpose that this junior commander decided to assume an extra burden of manual labor and then free his best, most reliable "digger" from any more

physical work at that point. For Dmitriy was his combat vehicle driver, who was at the same time responsible for seeing that it was kept in proper working order. And as everyone knows, launch accuracy will depend to a very great extent upon whether or not the system is in flawless working order.

They completed all their preparatory work late that night. They fell asleep instantly and slept soundly. But they didn't sleep long. The sun was not yet up when the crew was awake and making one more check of their vehicle to make sure it was ready for the launch.

Missilemen have, as a rule, to be very patient people. For the fact is that their operational responsibilities will fairly frequently consist precisely in highly suspenseful, tension-filled waiting. The battle's raging somewhere off in the distance, and every now and then the echos, the sounds of the guns, reach their launch position. Somewhere out there their subunits are attacking the "enemy," but the missilemen are forced to continue their relative inactivity; it's a long time before they can do anything to help the attacking forces, because they do not have the right to reveal themselves before the proper time. But no matter how long they remain calm and composed at their launch position, this is only a surface deception. The tension of the wait seems to turn their nerves into tightly drawn strings. The order to fire their missile may come at any moment. That moment must find them at their most calm, cool and collected.

It's no easy thing to maintain this state of tension for many hours, and occasionally days, on end. You'll no sooner relax ever so slightly or, at the other extreme, become overly tense and nervous, than the decisive second will arrive and you might inadvertently allow what at first glance might appear the slightest of imprecisions in your actions. But this complex equipment will never excuse any slipup like this. For it executes the human operator's command with flawless precision. When you're firing over great distances, the slightest of errors in the launch operation will cause a missile to strike wide of its target. So the responsibility borne by each member of the launcher crew is a heavy one.

To the honor of Zavzyatyy, Kulashov and Koval'chuk, they proved themselves to be as patient as they needed to be. The command "Crew, to your battle positions!" found them in full readiness.

"Number 3, start your vehicle! Move to launch position!"

This was the signal for the driver to begin the execution of his assigned operational role. Dmitriy carefully moved the vehicle out from under its camouflage netting and to an open area as level as a table top.

The other members of the crew now went to work.

"Fire!"

Junior Sergeant Zavzyatyy pressed the button. The launching rail with its missile slowly rose into position. It slowed to a stop just before it reached the vertical. A tight twist of fire instantly lashed out from the nozzle....

An explosion, the roar of the fiery jet—and the missile streaks off the end of the launching rail. Within only a second it had already reached a considerable altitude.

The missilemen departed the launch area before they learned the results of their launch. They had received the command to move to a new position.

Now deployed at its new location, the battery received the report: "The launch was an 'excellent.' Target destroyed!"

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CSO: 1801/234

REGIMENTAL COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Feb 84 p 6

[Article by Colonel N. Kalmykov: "By the Measure of Battle--The Regimental Commander: The Man and the Job"]

[Text] The indicator screens were still glowing and the target plotters still plotting target movements on their plexiglass, but the loudspeakers were growing noticeably quieter now and the tension, the long hours of exertion, was beginning to ease; the unit chief of staff heaved a sigh of relief: it looked like the exercise had been a success. It had indeed been a success—the plan, conceived in the quiet of the staff offices, had remained unpenetrated for an unusually long period of time, so the fast-moving combat exercise ultimately came to take on an explosive nature, continually placing crews in critical situations, forcing them to rethink and refine decisions.... And now, with things beginning to wind down, all the hitches, the most insignificant deficiencies in the functioning of the regimental machinery were beginning to become particularly easy to spot—on the graphic displays of fragments of the action now frozen on the plotting boards, in the rough notes hurriedly entered in the logs; these now required extensive, thoroughgoing analysis.

The chief of staff glanced over in the direction of the regimental commander, and by the concentrated expression on the latter's face he knew: Colonel Orlov was pleased with the way the exercise had gone. For the fact was that exercises like this, exercises that pushed to the limits in their complexity, in the challenge they posed to the participants involved, these were the only kind of exercise Yuriy Mikhaylovich Orlov would recognize. No simple-minded plans or superficial solutions, each and every minute of exercise time forcing people to think and search, search and think, every effort made to spot hitherto hidden deficiencies in crew performance. And, as would be the case in actual battle, success coming only with the expenditure of great effort.

Orlov understood what the chief of staff meant by this glance and gave him a thumbs up sign: things had been up to snuff this time. Up to snuff.... It hadn't been all that long ago, had it, that he had had to deliver himself of a much lower opinion of preparations which had been made for an exercise? At all times speaking calmly and correctly, the chief of staff had nevertheless on this occasion been unable to restrain himself:

"There's just no pleasing you.... Not a single one of the subunits got more than a 4 and you say the whole was a 'joy ride.' How were we supposed to make it any more difficult?"

"Well, I agree with you as far as the subunits are concerned," Orlov acknowledged, "but, now, what role did the regimental commander play here? In this case he was just a conductor conducting the score of a part that had already been memorized. I don't see any point in that."

He had wanted to add that it was a commander's responsibility to develop a better grasp of the military art than his subordinates. Because, after all, a battle is not simply a clash between contending forces and the technologies at their disposal, but a dual of wits which a commander is bound by duty and responsibility to conduct and attempt to win at whatever cost. But you don't learn how to do this in a day or two, by taking only a superficial approach to things. But at this point he didn't say anything else: he already had enough information to draw the proper conclusions. And the requirements he laid down in these situations had long since been made clear. Ever since he had stopped allowing himself to become involved in the process of developing the plans for regimental exercises and had begun to shift everything connected with this onto the shoulders of his chief of staff so he could develop his own ability to conduct combat operations.

Orlov took a look at the target plotting board: the last targets had left the zone of coverage. It was now time to figure up the results. He lingered for a moment, mentally "replaying" the most interesting moments in the action and analyzing the reasons for the shortcomings in the performance he had observed. In general, each shortcoming in performance could be attributed to specific failures on the part of specific individuals, and the conclusions to be drawn were perfectly clear. A single, but nevertheless exceptionally important, incident constituted the only except on: a delay in firing on one of the training targets, in this case target No. 12. Nothing about this incident seemed to add up for some reason; there appeared to be no logical connection between the individual events involved. This was going to require some more thought, but since he had gotten into the habit of placing a premium on his subordinates' time, Orlov went ahead and got his people together for a post-exercise critique.

In accordance with established custom, he first offered his chief of staff a chance to express his views, then his representatives with the individual subunits and other officers on the command post team. Again according to the established practice, all spoke only briefly and to the point without repeating one another. Only with reference to target No. 12 did their opinions begin to diverge: each one appeared to have his own ideas about what had occurred.

"Do we have any other ideas?" the colonel inquired, even though the truth of the matter was already clear to everybody.

"Yes, sir," this from Major V. Slichenko, chief of regimental intelligence. "The main reason we saw things develop as they did, I think, was because you, comrade colonel, were slow in recognizing the target maneuver and then in making your decision. That's all I want to say. By the way, I can support my opinion if necessary...."

Every eye in the place was on Slichenko in an instant. To criticize a commander who was without equal in the regiment in his professional military performance, who even in the most incredibly difficult situation, a situation which would be hopeless for many people, was capable in the twinkling of an eye of arriving at and then implementing the only possible correct decision under the circumstances, to criticize a commander like this—no, this was nothing but an unthinking outburst which had to be squelched immediately. The colonel, however, remained calm, not visibly disturbed. It was only when he had finished figuring up the performance results that he finally, after a brief silence, said:

"Now, as far as the fire on target No. 12 is concerned, I myself am entirely responsible for what happened."

The colonel left the command post immediately following the critique. On his face, a distracted, pensive expression. His thoughts were occupied with target No. 12 and questions, questions about how he, a highly skilled professional with more than 10 years' experience as an antiaircraft missile regiment commander, one who had repeatedly, invariably, conducted practice launches in the training area with only "excellent" ratings, could have been guilty of a blunder like this. Having become accustomed to measuring his own personal performance against what would be required of him under actual battlefield conditions, he did not permit himself to attribute this slipup to chance, to say it was just one of those things that will happen occasionally. For the commander does not have the right to err on the battlefield. No, and he cannot have. And it was only upon this basis that he approached the task of organizing his training activities, both his own and those planned for the people in his organization. What his error on this occasion meant was that he had neglected something in his own training as a commander, that he had lost sight of something, that something had been neglected.

Orlov was distracted from his thoughts by none other than Slichenko, who had now suddenly appeared at his side. Requesting permission to speak, the latter apologized for the inappropriateness of the comments he had made.

"What is there to apologize for?" the colonel responded with a shrug of his shoulders. "You were simply speaking the truth, and for the benefit of the organization to boot. That's the most important thing. And if my own authority has suffered, then it's from something else entirely.... Quite to the contrary, I'm really grateful to you. A commander's always going to run the risk of being tripped up any time he puts an analysis of his own actions last. This ought to come first, and with your help, I've been able to see the truth of this again today."

Colonel Orlov turned his thoughts to Major Slichenko. His assignment had certainly been no mistake. A businesslike, sound-thinking individual, one of those people who looked truth in the face rather than turning to what came out of the mouth of his commander. The fact that he was a little on the obstinate side, a little too peremptory, a little too categorical—this wasn't all that much of a problem. He was, after all, working not to the detriment, but rather for the benefit of the organization. If it comes down to having to prove he's right, to having to stand up and defend his principles. In this respect Slichenko reminded him a little bit of himself. How many times over the course of his career as a regimental commander had he had to demonstrate within different chains of command what he was really made of when it came to personal character, to stand up for what he thought was right. He stepped on a few toes occasionally, but he didn't back down, no, he never backed down if what he was fighting for required him to fight.

Take, for example, that incident a long time ago in which after numerous competitions the battalion command post team had won the right to compete for the title of "Best in the Air Defense Forces." What a clamor there was at that point for the replacement of Privates I. Dzhabbarov and A. Menistsveridze, who were among the younger specialists, with more experienced, more seasoned personnel. What he wasn't criticized for when he refused to take this step! That he was being irresponsible, that he wasn't thinking of the honor of the regiment.... But it was precisely honor that was uppermost in his mind. An honor, though, that would not be in the least besmirched. And he was supported to the hilt in this principled stand by the chief of the political department.

And the crew proceeded to win with its prescribed organizational composition....

After passing a few small side streets, the car turned out onto the main road.

"Turn left after the curve," Orlov instructed, tapping the driver on the shoulder. "We'll drop in and have a look at Major Tsyplenkov's unit."

The decision to visit this particular subunit really wasn't occasioned by any real necessity. He has always been opposed to these short, surprise visits in the belief that they only distract the people involved from the job they have to do. But for this battalion, or more precisely, for the commander, Major M. Tsyplenkov, himself, he would occasionally make an exception. There was a story behind this, special circumstances and a special relationship between the two men involved here.

The regiment Orlov had taken over and was now still commanding was the third one he had commanded. In the two previous regiments he had had to requalify as a master on two occasions. He had had to go through the same process here again in this one. For the third time, now. But would it be easy, what with having this time taken over a unit which was by no means among the best and considering the fact that so much still remained to be done? These things couldn't be put off to a more convenient time, however. So you cut yourself some slack and then lean on your subordinates. He found time to take some lessons, to borrow some of the experience, of his best specialists.

It did not take long at all for him single out Senior Lieutenant Mikhail Tsyplenkov, an interception control officer, for both his exceptional professional skill and that special personal style that distinguishes the master. So one time he stopped by the office and said to Tsyplenkov:

"Let me be the controller, and you check me out. Then you critique me."

As he went about his tasks at the control panel, Orlov caught himself unconsciously attempting to imitate Tsyplenkov. He didn't perform like Tsyplenkov, though. He couldn't function with the same confidence, his performance not all that pleasing to watch.

"Well, was it very bad?" he inquired at the conclusion of the operation.

"To be right honest with you, you wouldn't get above a 3 for it. There were a lot of breaks in the action. a lot of excess motion...."

Ever since then Orlov has dropped in to see Tsyplenkov and worked on developing his mastery of the system under the major's guidance. At the same time, though, he's been looking the man over, evaluating him, and he sees a thoughtful, demanding officer capable of explaining complicated things in a simple, straightforward, convincing manner.

A short time later a higher, more responsible position opened up, and Tsyplenkov was moved into it, and then when he succeeded in moving his new subunit into the ranks of the leading organizations Orlov fought for his candidacy for the position of battalion commander. This was not without a certain amount of friction with the people in the personnel department, however; but by that time the name of Colonel Orlov had become one to be reckoned with: under his command the regiment had retained its "outstanding" rating from one year to the next, the regiment had twice initiated socialist competition within the Air Defense Forces, while the contributions of Yuriy Mikhaylovich himself had been recognized in the form of the order For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces, 2d and 3d degrees.

Tsyplenkov in fact justified the hopes which had been placed in him. Orlov, however, did not let him escape his attention, monitor his performance any the less closely or lessen the degree of exactingness with which he evaluated Tsyplenkov.

Today's exercise, in fact, had disturbed the colonel: the subunit had not functioned with its characteristic efficiency. Then he learned that Tsyplenkov had given some specialists who ordinarily perform other, but related, functions a role in this particular exercise and in the final phase put his deputy for political affairs in charge of crew operations. With things happening so fast at the time he had just stored this information away in his memory, but now, things having settled down some, he began to analyze the situation less hurriedly, more thoughtfully.

It's a good thing for political personnel to learn how to conduct combat operations. And what they are learning they're already putting into practice. And when was that memorable conversation with the chief of the political section?

He had gone back to headquarters late in the evening that day. The only window lit up was one in the office of the chief of the political section.

"Burning the midnight oil again, Vladimir Nikolayevich?" he inquired light-heartedly. "You're setting a bad example for your men. You should have been home a long time ago."

"And so should you," the political section chief replied with a smile. Then, noticing the tired look on the commander's face, he added: "Tell me, why in the world do you put in so much time drilling on the launch systems as one of the crew members? Or in the training compartments?"

"Well, we could ask the same thing about you, couldn't we?" replied Orlov with a chuckle. "Do you think I'm doing this for my reputation, to give my authority a boost? Personal authority is important, of course. But that's not what I'm concerned about here. A commander, even one who's very knowledgeable and who's an efficient organizer, but on the other hand cannot himself do the jobs his men do, will never, and I'm sure of this, will never be able to give his men the proper training. And do you know why? Because of rather than applying the 'Do as I do'

principle, he's forced to fall back on the 'Do as I say' principle, which, of course, is something quite different. Now, I don't want to be put in the same category with commanders like that. Here's what I think: I think it would be entirely beneficial if some more of our political officers got involved in really learning how to take charge of a combat operation."

Now this conversation did not take place all that long ago, but, lo and behold, we've already seen the first results of this effort.

As he mulled over in his mind these incidents and events in the life of the regiment, Orlov turned his thoughts to the gratitude he owed the chief of the political section and the unit's party organization for how much they had done to help solve problems which required solution, for their help in the implementation of training plans and the discharge of socialist obligations and for their contribution to the education of unit personnel.

As he gazed out over the post in the twilight, it occurred to Orlov that a most convenient time had just arrived: the troops were just then beginning their period of rest and relaxation, so he would be able to talk to them in a more informal, easy-going situation. Talk to them in his role as commander and communist about the service and the concerns of the present, and in his role as deputy to the city soviet about the agenda for tomorrow and the paths they would take when they left the army school behind. And then he thought of something else: I can't forget to suggest to the chief of staff that he get Major Slichenko involved in preparations for future regimental exercises.

* * *

We met with Colonel Orlov at a time when his regiment had just been awarded its "excellent" designation for another year and was in the process of fulfilling new, and this time more challenging, socialist obligations. To the two orders Yuriy Mikhaylovich already held had now been added a third—the For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces, 1st degree. He thereby became the first full holder of this order in the Air Defense Forces.

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CSO: 1801/230

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ATTENTION GIVEN TO OVERCOMING TRAINING PROBLEMS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Kir'yazov, Northern Group of Forces: "Exactingness from Initiators of Competition"]

[Text] Heavy, unbroken lead-gray clouds moved in over the air base. Clouds so dense the air itself seemed a dark blue. The sun hadn't been seen for several days now. Weather like this came most opportunely for these aviators, what with the fact that every weather-minimum takeoff makes a solid contribution to a combat pilot's arsenal of skills.

This gloomy morning would also see Major General of Aviation D. Dem'yanenko accompanied by a group of staff officers arrive at the X Guards Fighter Regiment, an initiator of socialist competition within the Air Force, to check on progress in the organizational combat training program. The regiment's flight program, efficient, well-organized, was already under way.

Efforts to insure efficient utilization of training time and implementation of each month's scheduled flight program day and night under both favorable and adverse weather conditions had become an integral component of the overall effort here to meet socialist obligations undertaken for the winter training period. This became particularly clear over the course of preparations for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

As you come to know the life these combat aviators lead, the training they undergo, you cannot help but notice how exacting they are in evaluating the results each specialist achieves in the course of his training program. And as they told us, they have their reasons for taking this view of things.

This regiment had been among the top-rated organizations for ten years in a row. But then suddenly last year the unit lost its "excellent" rating. Why?

...The final test performances were under way. The flyers had passed the test demonstrating their combat maturity. Everything would have been alright had it not been for Guards Major V. Babushkin's last, unsuccessful, sortie. Everybody had expected him to return from the flight area with an "excellent" rating. Such, however, was not to be the case. And this inevitably set in motion its own chain reaction: neither the squadron nor then the regiment as a whole was able to meet its obligations.

The command and the party committee concluded at this point that ten years of continuous success had inclined some people to begin taking their victory for granted. The task, accordingly, was to modify some attitudes. A conference of senior regimental personnel and a meeting of the party committee were then held with this objective the focus of attention. A special education program was planned and implemented. So when the regiment undertook a set of more demanding socialist obligations for the new training year, everybody knew they were going to have to work hard, with nobody getting cut any slack for past performance.

...Guards Major V. Lysenok, the deputy regimental commander for flight engineering services, is highly respected within in the regiment. People like his energy, his initiative, his ability to organize operations efficiently. This officer was able to focus the efforts of his men on the objective of achieving higher performance results. Everything in this instance would have added up to success, but one day....

This happened at one of the alternate airfields. The pilots were going through their bombing exercises. An engine on one of the aircraft suddenly swallowed a bird. The pilot skillfully maneuvered the aircraft in for a landing. In inspecting the turbine, Guards Major-Engineer and his men found only minor signs of an impact.

What this engineer did then flew entirely in the face of regulations governing flight service operations. True, it led to nothing serious. But the command and party organization took this departure from regulation requirements most seriously. Communist Lysenok was called to account for his actions. To his credit, he made no attempt to justify what he had done. This session with the party committee was, moreover, conducted in such a manner as to be instructive for other officers as well.

Objectivity and exactingness. The regiment regards these as the critical requirements in evaluating the performance of any pilot, technician or specialist. We watched as Major General of Aviation Dem'yanenko tested the operational readiness of Guards Senior Lieutenant V. Kucherenko. The young aviator performed confidently, exceeding all norm requirements in the process.

"He really did do well," the deputy regimental commander for political affairs confirmed to us. "Kucherenko recently passed his test for 1st class. But not all the young pilots here can take pride in results like this. Instability in the 3d squadron is a problem. The 3d squadron has a lot of youngsters, and we've given them special attention: the pilots here are in good shape when it comes to the basics of theory, but they're still a little short on practical experience. So we brought in Guards Major Ilyushechkin, one of best methods experts in the unit, who used to command an 'excellent'-rated squadron himself."

...The fighters continued taking off, one after another. But it finally came time to tot up the results of the first flight shift. It soon became known that the squadron Guards Major Babushkin was commanding in the absence of its commander had successfully accomplished the entire program of activities on its flight schedule.

The specialists of the flight-engineering service headed by Guards Major-Engineer Lysenok had also accomplished their assigned mission. They had serviced the aircraft expertly and readied them for the next scheduled sortie on time. They were

mentioned as performance results from the first flight shift were being figured up. Attention was also called to the fact that the results which had been achieved were only a beginning, only a first step on the long road these aviators must travel to satisfy their socialist obligations.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

SURPRISE ATTACK IN HELICOPTER TRAINING EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel V. Shevtsov, combat pilot 1st class, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Surprise Attack, Tactical Exercise Report"]

[Text] A sharp gust of wind slapped into the side of the helicopter, turning it at an angle to the course it had been following. With sure-handed operation of the controls, Lieutenant Colonel V. Sokolov, a combat pilot 1st class, was able to bring the machine back onto its proper course. He glanced quickly in his rear-view mirror—the helicopters in his group were following as though linked together with a strong, invisible thread.

A few hours ago the regimental air component had been assigned the mission of providing air support for a motorized rifle attack being launched along the "enemy's" forward line and destroying his fire positions. Lieutenant Colonel Sokolov, one of the unit's most highly trained pilots, had been assigned to lead the crews selected to undertake this critical mission. He made thorough, painstaking preparations. The group leader called his pilots' attention in particular to the importance of achieving surprise in their attack, what with the fact that this was the only way they would be able to achieve the most effective results and avoid losses.

Sokolov knew that with today's means of conducting reconnaissance and locating aerial targets it's going to be difficult to penetrate an air defense zone undetected, appear suddenly over a target and then deliver an accurate strike. So in preparing his crews for this mission, the leader devised a plan which would keep the "enemy" from detecting the helicopter for as long as possible. He decided to fly in a close formation at low altitude taking maximum advantage of natural concealment offered by the terrain.

They were only a very short distance back from the front line when this rising wind began to complicate flight conditions considerably. The fact that they were near the "enemy" positions made it impossible for the group to fly any higher. There was only one thing to do—to overcome these difficulties with maximum self-control, steadfastness and piloting skill. A lot now depended upon precise, cool-headed action on the part of the group leader. Sokolov was doing all he could to see that his helicopter, controlled by a firm, skilled hand, gave a clear lead to the other machines.

"I see the target.... Wait for my command," Lieutenant Sokolov radioed to his wingman.

At precisely this critical moment the gusting and the buffeting intensified. It looked in the sight as though the "enemy" guns were doing some ingeniously contrived dance. Now I know from my own experience that at a time like this you begin to think it's impossible to get in an accurate strike. And it's even more difficult for the wingman. So a lot depends upon the group leader here.

After the flight Sokolov told me that at this point he forced himself just to relax a little. But this wasn't relaxation to the point where you can lose your bearings, get confused and lose control of the situation, confusion that sets in when you begin to question your own personal capabilities. On the basis of the store of practical experience he had accumulated over the course of hundreds of hours of flight time, he knew that at this most critical moment, any excessive constraint a pilot imposes upon himself in controlling his aircraft can have no good result. He begins to make a lot of imprecise motions, and he starts making more mistakes. In situations like this it is better to try to keep control of yourself with the objective of preventing your hands from losing their customary sensitivity and precision, to keep them from being overcome by your own oppressive burden of responsibility.

Smoothly centering the crosshairs in his sight on the target on the ground, Sokolov radioed to his wingman:

"Fire! Now, left turn."

The missiles shot past the helicopter and streaked toward the ground. Caps of smoke from the explosions rose up over the "enemy" fire positions. The attack had come as a stunning surprise: approaching in the air a hurricane of fire, but over the "enemy's" forward line—nothing. And now down on the ground the wind was blowing away the final puffs of smoke, revealing the guns, military equipment and other "enemy" targets destroyed by the accurate strikes these helicopter pilots had just delivered.

The motorized rifle troops now moved swiftly to the attack.

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CSO: 1801/207

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

GREATER COOPERATION URGED BETWEEN MILITARY, CIVILIAN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Col V. Filatov in the "Military Publicist Column": "Military and Civilian Students"]

[Text] Quite often, in cities, military and civilian educational facilities are located in close proximity to each other. As a rule, students enrolled in both institutions are generally of the same age. Their curricula have a great deal in common, and they share many of the same desires, needs, ambitions and interests. But, in fact, there are also those aspects of their relationship which, as they say, place them in somewhat different planes of existence. For example, military students experience a strictly regimented existence; their training, service and leave-time--their whole lives, in fact, are rigidly regimented. It is, perhaps, this crucial difference which, to some extent, gives rise to the specific mode of communication between military and civilian students. Unfortunately, however, in most places these modes are few and far between. At times, the entire process is reduced to a combined komsomol-young peoples' get-together, consisting primarily of dances, along with shared amateur performances of various sorts.

Perhaps, at one time this was enough. Today, however, it would seem that there is a need for more substantive communication between military and civilian students. Today, many of yesterday's civilian students are platoon commanders, while yesterday's military students are assigned to the faculties of civilian institutes of higher education. The armed forces have wholeheartedly adopted the use of, if one may use the expression, "two-year" institutes. Modern life demands expansion of the modes of communication between military and civilian students from the very first day of their arrival in their respective educational institutions. Every resource is available for doing just that. There is some interesting reference information in this area which has been compiled in Tashkent.

The Tashkent Order of Labor Red Banner State University imeni V. I. Lenin became the first higher educational institute in the Far East. One of the oldest military training institutes in the country is the Tashkent Joint-Military Command Red Banner, Order of the Red Star Academy imeni V. I. Lenin. Communication between these training institutes has been firmly established from the very first day they opened. In July 1983, these distinguished old institutes of learning

concluded an agreement on the matter of joint cooperation. The primary focus of the agreement centers on: "Upgrading the educational enrichment process and the organization of scientific research work by civilian and military students." A broad program of intercooperative endeavor was worked out for the purpose of developing material and technological resources, making full use of educational technical equipment, facilitating joint participation in interscholastic scientific conferences, olympiads, competitions, etc., and arranging mutual cooperation between the various scientific subunits of the university and the academy. The university faculty has joined together to develop a scientific lecture series for the benefit of military students, and regularly conducts convocations with outstanding university scholars.

One point in the agreement deals with the matter of summer military training camps for students. The academy was required to provide civilian students with their own training materials and equipment for use in training camps for university students. In return, the university assumes the responsibility for furnishing material and technological aid to the academy for future improvements to the training center, and agrees to finance all future university student camps intended to prepare faculty for the university's military department.

The adoption of this agreement was preceded by a great deal of preparatory work. A special commission was set up to work out the conditions of joint cooperation. The commission convened twice in order to establish working policies. Thereupon, the agreement was signed in the assembly hall of the Palace of Culture in the presence of civilian and military students.

Well, what has been accomplished to date with respect to the joint cooperation agreement between the two institutions? The joint training center is currently in the final stage of construction; construction of classrooms, a club and a dining hall is being finished. The military academy has conducted a camp for civilian students, many of whom have made the decision to become officers.

They remember in the university that, once, when he was commander of the Turk-
estan front, M. V. Frunze made an appearance before the students and faculty. They recalled this again recently when the commander of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District, Army General Yu. P. Maksimov, visited the university campus. He met with the students and the faculty, and delivered a lecture in the assembly hall of the Palace of Culture entitled, "Standing Guard for Peace and National Security."

It seems to me that the example set by these two fine old institutions of higher learning is deserving of attention and wider dissemination.

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CSO: 1801/180

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

KIEV SUVOROV MILITARY SCHOOL PROFILED

Moscow RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Nov 83 p 4

[Article consisting of separate first-person reports collected by Lt Col (Res) V. Usov, chief of the Non-T/O Section for Military-Patriotic Indoctrination, in the column "Military Service Card": "Entering Service--The Suvorov Way"]

[Excerpt] Today's "Military Service Card" column is devoted to the Kiev Suvorov Military School. This school's high ratings in training and indoctrination have earned it the challenge prize of the USSR Ministry of Defense.

Head of the school, Maj-Gen I. I. Kaurkin: "They Can't Say Goodbye to their Beloved Home"

The Kiev Suvorov Military School was founded at the height of the Great Patriotic War. In August of 1943, the Communist Party and the Soviet government adopted a resolution "On Urgent Measures to Restore the Economy in Regions Liberated From German Occupation." And, along with extremely important measures for normalizing production, other measures were enacted which were designed to provide for the welfare and education of children whose parents had perished at the hands of the fascist occupiers. Thus, the nine Suvorov schools came into existence. The purpose of these new educational facilities was as follows: to provide students with the elementary education, military knowledge and habits needed for successful study in military schools; to indoctrinate them in absolute dedication to the Soviet homeland, the Communist Party and the Soviet government, while also teaching them to be cultured individuals of high moral integrity; to instill in them a love for military service, a sense of Soviet military pride, a desire to perform heroic deeds in the name of the Homeland, and a high level of conscientious self-discipline; to raise them as strong, resilient and skillful individuals fully capable of enduring the burdens and hardships of military service.

Originally, our school was located in Chuguyev (Kharkov Oblast) and was known as the Kharkov School. In 1947, it was moved to Kiev and since then has been known as the Kiev Suvorov Military School.

On 24 November 1943, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolved to present the Red Banner to the Kharkov Suvorov Military School as a symbol of military

honor, valor and glory. This day has henceforth been officially regarded as the school's date of origin.

In the 40 years which have passed since that day, 35 classes have been graduated. Our alumni are currently discharging their military duties in all of the military districts and groups of forces--holding various ranks, from lieutenant to lieutenant general, and responsibilities ranging from platoon commander to district deputy commander of forces; they work and study in academies, VUZ's, scientific research institutes and in the hierarchy of the Ministry of Defense.

But, no matter where our graduates are taken by their service, whenever they have leave, they always manage to find a way to visit the school (they just can not say goodbye to their alma mater, saying instead, "See you again!"). And their first words of thanks are always directed to their own Communist Party and Soviet government for their paternal concern about their childhood welfare, and to the school for the simple fact that it has been for them the home they never had.

The Suvorov students and faculty are greeting the school's upcoming anniversary in an appropriate fashion. In 1950, the USSR Ministry of Defense established a challenge prize--the Red Banner and bust of A. V. Suvorov--to be awarded annually to the Suvorov military schools achieving the best indicators in training and indoctrination work. During the past school year, three fourths of the graduates received final grades of "excellent" and "good", and more than 20 students were graded strictly "excellent", while Aleksandr Aksyuta, Dmitriy Zhuk, Grigoriy Kovalev, Sergey Podkopayev and Vladlen Litnovskiy were awarded gold medals. For the most part, our graduates leave with an excellent general education and sound military training, in outstanding physical condition, politically well-versed, and devoted to the military profession. This is made possible by the use of training materials resources which meet modern needs, the individualized study system, and by the skills of the officers and professors of the teaching staff.

Who is admitted to the school today? Young people 15-16 years of age with 8 years of secondary education, in good health, and desiring to be future officers. The course of study lasts 2 years.

Military indoctrination at the school takes place in the spirit of the military oath and the regulations of the USSR Armed Forces in the course of the established daily routine carried out by the students. This includes training sessions, homework assignments, regular service on the duty roster, and familiarization with the revolutionary and military Soviet traditions, as well as with life and military training in the Soviet Armed Forces. Suvorov students participate in military parades and in various military ceremonies of the Kiev Garrison. They also perform their own ceremonies at the school.

Suvorov students' extracurricular time is occupied by sporting events, cultural and educational pursuits, the study of music, dancing and singing, the performance of socially useful work, and participation in community activities.

Commander of the outstanding company, Major A. N. Iokhov: "First of all--you must dream!"[in boldface]

The majority of the youngsters who dream of entering the school begin preparing themselves as early as the fifth grade for studies at the Suvorov military school. They read books about prominent military commanders, about the war-time exploits of their fathers and uncles, and they meet with Suvorov students. And, most importantly, they apply themselves diligently in school--in fact, in order to enter the school, an eighth grade certificate with a grade-point average no lower than 4.5 is required.

From their very first days, we discipline the young people to carry out their daily regimen in the strictest manner. This initial period is the most difficult stage in the making of a Suvorov student. At first, many complain of not having sufficient time, but then knowledge and skill come to the fore. Living according to regulations and strict routine develops such militarily essential qualities as self-discipline and sharp attention; it develops willpower and character.

Aleksandr Volkov came to the school as quite a young boy. His parents had not regarded his dream of entering the school with particularly great optimism. But he was determined. He studied diligently, graduated with honors, and was admitted to the Ryazan Military School. Now, already a graduate, he is a member of the CPSU and an honors student.

Military character is developed at a particularly rapid pace during the summer training period, in the camps, where Suvorov students gain the fundamentals of soldiering. They take part in tactical training exercises and master the use of weapons.

Our Suvorov students actively participate in topical discussions, debates, and convey political information. And, in so doing, they increase their own moral and political development in that sphere.

I would like to relate a certain incident in regard to this.

On May 8, the Suvorov students of our company were in the Great Patriotic War Museum, where they met with war veterans. Afterwards, in the square near the museum, they were approached by some American tourists. A conversation ensued. In English, of course,--our youngsters were quite fluent in it. One of the tourists asked, "Why do you constantly speak of peace, while you yourselves are being prepared for war at such a young age?" To this young Volodya Bobylev gave a fitting response: "I wear the shoulderboards to safeguard world peace, and any threat of a new war comes from the activities of your government."

Suvorov student, Valeriy Kuts: "We Master Science for Victory"[in boldface]

We have all come to school familiar with the biography of the great Russian military leader, Aleksandr Vasil'yevich Suvorov. But here, in the school, everything that we knew about the invincible generalissimo is perceived in a new and special way. Here, the memory of the commander of the "superheroes" is everywhere; here, everything is filled with the spirit of his grand "science for victory."

At the entrance to the school is a sculpture of the great man. He is caught in the decisive moment of battle, calling his troops into the attack through personal example. His famous aphorisms are also well remembered, having become the precepts of many generations of defenders of the Fatherland: "Each soldier must be aware of his own strategy," "Sighting, speed and attack!" "He who is afraid is half defeated," "The enemy is everywhere to be attacked," and many, many others which, even in our times, have not lost their importance. For the main thing which A. V. Suvorov has taught us is to combine the moral strength of the soldier with the strength of his weapons, and to inculcate a high level of moral consciousness, patriotism and courage.

We depart the school wearing a badge on our chests--a bas-relief of A. V. Suvorov with the inscriptions, "USSR," and "SVU"[Suvorov Military School]. This acts as our permit to enter military school, and later--service in the officer corps. How can you forget about what you owe and are obligated to do?

No doubt, this is what distinguishes the Suvorov school from the ordinary general education school. And, of course, there is also the fact that a sacred military comradeship is already in evidence here--mutual aid, mutual assistance, mutual respect, a high level of mutual expectation and striving to fulfill the hopes which have been held out for us by our commanders, our school and our Homeland.

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